

## ***The Journey* Related Activities:**

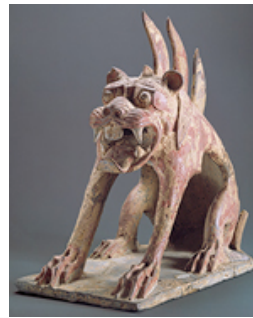
### **Create Your Own Guardian**

Guardian figures like the mythical beast guide for *The Journey* are often called composite animals. The ancient Chinese believed that combining elements from multiple animals made the guardian even more powerful and effective as a protector of the tomb. Which animals' characteristics did the artist use?

1. Draw, sculpt or create a mixed media collage of your own guardian figure. Which animals would be the most powerful guardians? Which characteristics of those animals would you use?
2. Write a short story about the guardian and its special powers and abilities. What kind of spirits might the guardian protect against?
3. Research guardian figures in other museums with online Asian collections. How does the Johnson's guardian figure compare to those at The Art Institute of Chicago and the Metropolitan Museum of Art?



Chimera from the collection of the Art Institute of Chicago



Tomb guardian from the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Chimera, called *bixie* in Chinese, are special types of guardian figures which combine the characteristics of a lion with wings and horns. They were often placed along the pathway leading to the tomb. How does our guardian differ from the chimera? Look at the image gallery of tomb objects from the Johnson Museum collection. Can you find the chimera?