

DESIGN YOUR OWN INN SIGN

Inn signs depict all sorts of things: battles and other events, royalty, legendary citizens, and even animals and magical creatures.

As so many things in Britain, Inn signs date back to Roman times, when they would hang vine leaves outside a shop to signal they sold wine!

The signs became popular in Britain in the 12th century and they mostly showed images rather than words. Can you guess why?

That's right: most people couldn't read at the time.

These signs tell stories, commemorate events, and can even be about the local folklore of a place.

See here some examples of Inn signs we have at the Museum:



STEP BY STEP: HOW TO CREATE YOUR INN SIGN

You will need:

- colour pencils, pens, and markers.
- a printer to print the design below, or a piece of paper to copy the design on the Inn sign below and create your own.

1. Getting started: Think of an animal you really like, an important or fun thing that happened in your life, or a celebration you really enjoy. You could also think of an object that's dear to you, or a sport you play. This will be the topic of your Inn sign. You could even combine several of the topics mentioned!

2. Get inspiration: Whatever topic you've chosen, look up some images, or read about it. Check out other artworks that have used that topic, and observe the shapes, details, and colours. Have a look at graffiti art and different calligraphies for the letters on your sign. This can help you create your work and decide on how you want it to look.

3. Start creating!: Now that you have a theme and some inspiration, it's time to get to work! Start drawing your image in the central rectangle, and add the name of your Inn in the ribbon at the top of the page.

Once you have finished, you can post or scan your creation to:

Museum of Cambridge, 2-3 Castle Street, Cambridge, CB3 0AQ

enquiries@museumofcambridge.org.uk

(or your masterpiece could go on the fridge to display to your family!)

Your work might end up displayed alongside the Inn signs we have in the Museum!

