

1

Lyra's Northern coat hat and gloves

Location: Ground Floor
Case C.9A

This costume was worn by the character Lyra Belacqua in the BBC HBO television show His Dark Materials. It is purchased during her journey to the Arctic to rescue her best friend Roger.



“ They bought a parka made of reindeer skin, because reindeer hair is hollow and insulates well...Finally they bought a waterproof cape that enveloped her completely, made of semi-transparent seal intestine. ”

'Northern Lights' by Philip Pullman

What colours are Lyra's gloves?

Fan Challenge: In which town did Lyra buy her Northern clothing?

2

Seal Intestine Parka and Cape

Location: Ground Floor
Case C.9A

Parkas and capes like these in the Pitt Rivers collection show that water-proof technology in Arctic clothing has been around for centuries. So how was it made?



“ They put [the] intestines inside out and clean the inside...and they soak them in salt water to make them white...and then they blow air into it and dry them...they sew this [for] maybe a week or more. ”

Anna Etageat,
Village of Unalakleet, Alaska, USA.

Estimate in metres or feet how tall you think the person who wore this cloak might be.

3

Mary Malone's I Ching Box

Location: Ground Floor
Case C.125

This object is used by the character Dr Mary Malone in the BBC HBO show His Dark Materials. She is a courageous visionary investigating how Dark Matter affects human consciousness in our present day Oxford.



“ You're telling me that when people consult the I Ching, they're getting in touch with Shadow-particles? With dark matter? ”

'The Subtle Knife' by Philip Pullman

How many yarrow sticks can you count?

Fan Challenge: What is 'The Cave' in Mary Malone's world?

4

The Amber Spyglass and seed pods

Location: Ground Floor

This object was also used by the character Dr Mary Malone in the BBC HBO His Dark Materials. In the Mulefa world, Mary discovers she can combine seedpod oil with pieces of amber in order to see Dust/Shadow-particles for herself.



“ And when she looked through everything was changed. She could see Shadows...sparkles of light, floating and drifting and sometimes moving in a current of purpose. ”

'The Amber Spyglass' by Philip Pullman

What is amber made of in our world?

Fan Challenge: What did Mary do before she was a scientist?

5

Wandering in Other Worlds

Location: Ground Floor
Case C.22

Wander in other worlds, explore the world of the Evenki people. Traditionally reindeer herders and hunters, the Evenki live across northern and central Asia. Adapting to environmental and social change in the Arctic Circle and living in harmony with nature has always been central to Evenki life.



“ From blessings of Earth and Sky does man derive his life.

Evenki cosmology ”

Which animals are mentioned in the Wandering in Other Worlds display?

7

Mrs Coulter's Locket

Location: First Floor
Case L.95

This locket was worn by the character Marisa Coulter, in the BBC HBO television show His Dark Materials. Mrs Coulter is Lyra's mother. She is a passionate woman who will stop at nothing to achieve her goals, no matter the cost.



“ She took one dark blonde curl and put it in a little gold locket she had around her own neck...the woman held it to her lips.” ”

'The Amber Spyglass' by Philip Pullman'

What does the pattern on Mrs Coulter's locket remind you of?

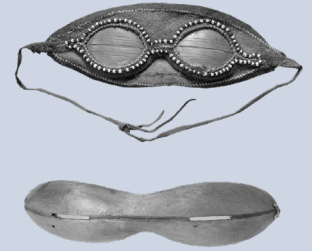
Fan challenge: Mrs Coulter is Lyra's mother but who is her father?

6

Snow goggles

Location: First floor
Case L.64

Snow goggles like these have been used by Arctic communities since around 800BC to prevent photokeratitis or 'snow blindness' and protect from cold and draft. These goggles do not mist over like the later Western glass goggles!



“ The back of the goggles are [sometimes] blackened with soot to protect the eyes from reflected light escaping through the slits. ”

Mogens Norn, ophthalmologist

Which pair of goggles do you like best?

8

Ruta Skadi's armour, dress and throwing nails

Location: Second Floor
Case U.5

This costume was worn by the character Ruta Skadi in the BBC HBO series His Dark Materials. She is the Queen of the Lake Lubana clan of witches and is 416 years old.



“ Sisters, let me tell you what is happening, and who it is that we must fight. For there is a war coming. I don't know who will join with us, but I know whom we must fight. It is the Magisterium.... ”

Ruta Skadi's speech, from 'The Subtle Knife' by Philip Pullman

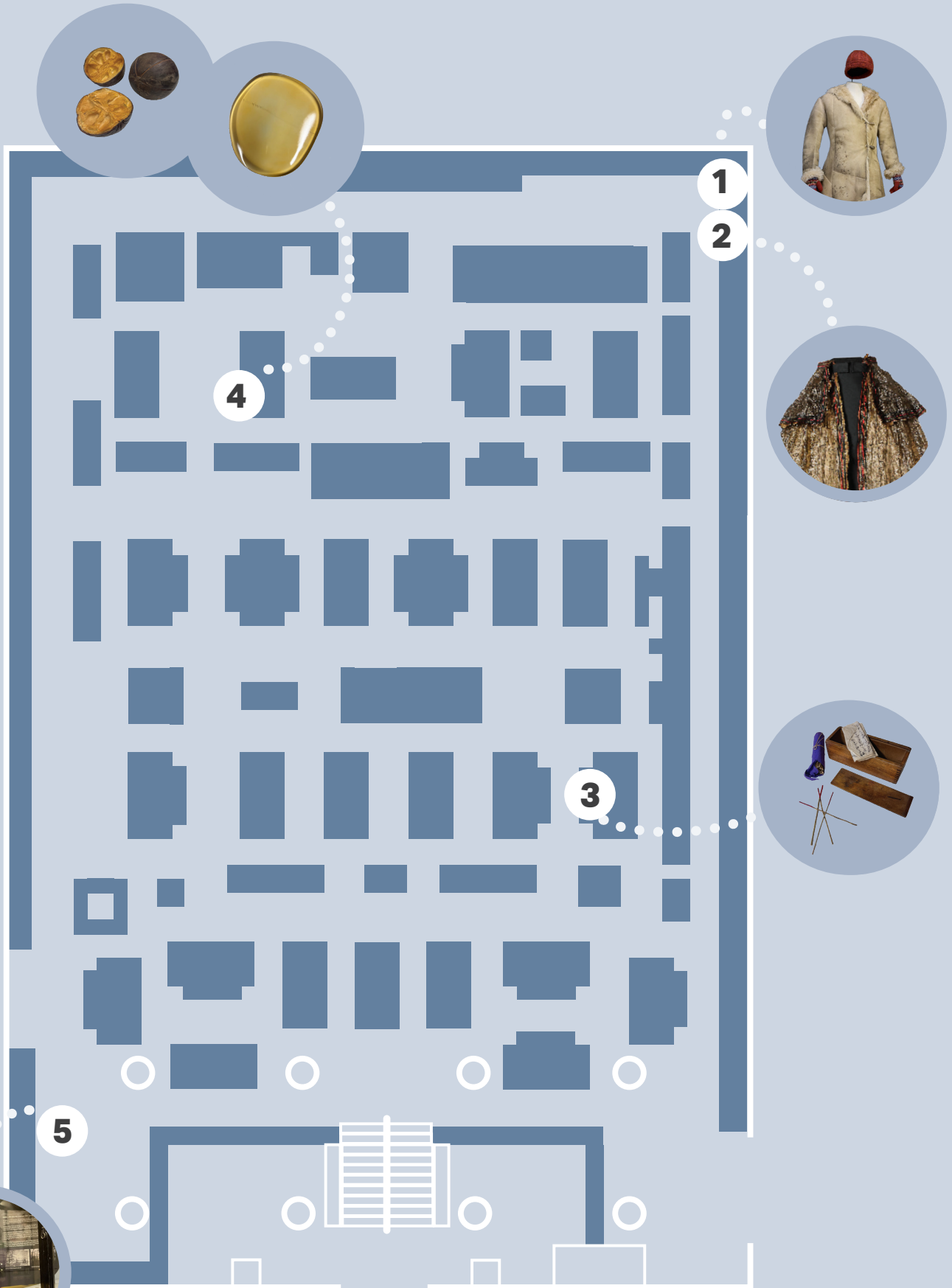
How many throwing nails can you see and what do you think they are made of?

Fan challenge: What plant gives a witch like Ruta Skadi power?

HIS DARK MATERIALS

Self-guided Museum Trail

 Pitt Rivers Museum

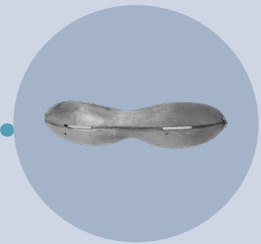
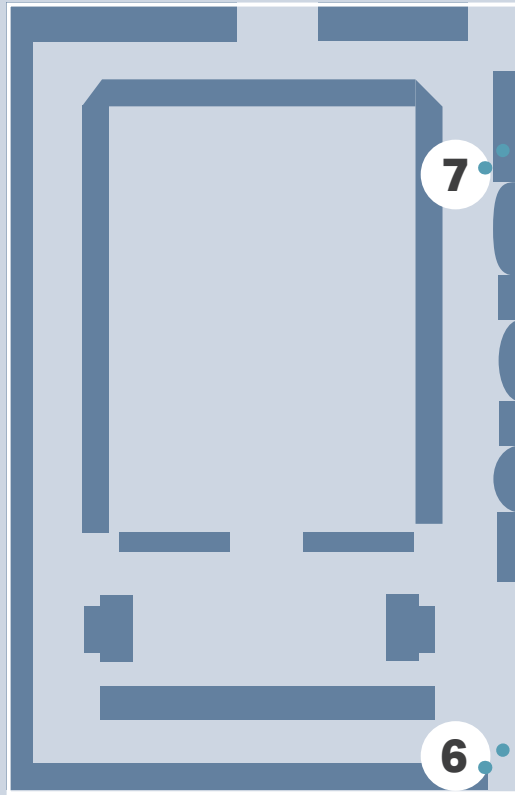


Ground floor

HIS DARK MATERIALS

Self-guided Museum Trail

First floor



Second floor

