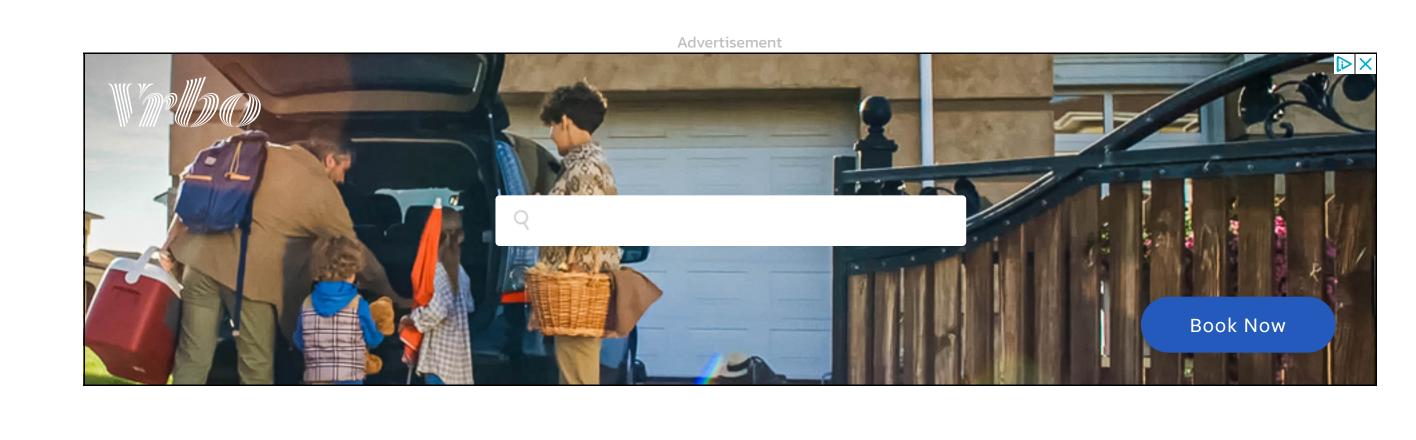
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Arms and Armor exhibition at the Bruce Museum



Located in Greenwich, Connecticut, the **Bruce Museum** often focuses on the multidisciplinary aspects of bringing together art and science. Starting on March 7th, they will be presenting "Arms and Armor: Evolution and Innovation."

"Arms and Armor" explores the parallel ways natural selection and human innovation influence the shape, composition and function of structures ranging from turtle shells to chain mail. Weapons and armor from around the world are displayed side-by-side with

natural history specimens such as taxidermy, skeletons and fossils. Rather than being

grouped culturally or taxonomically, objects are arranged by shared function.

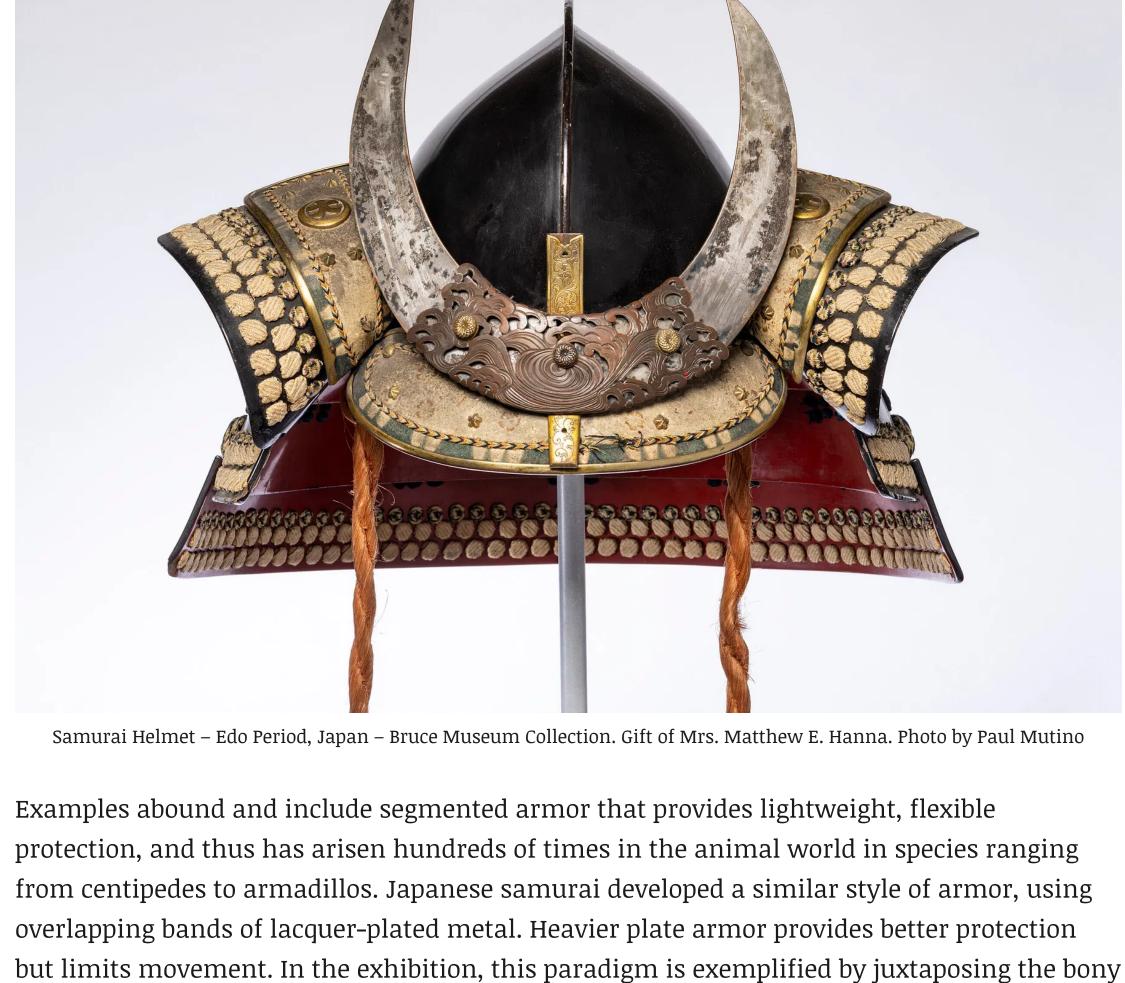
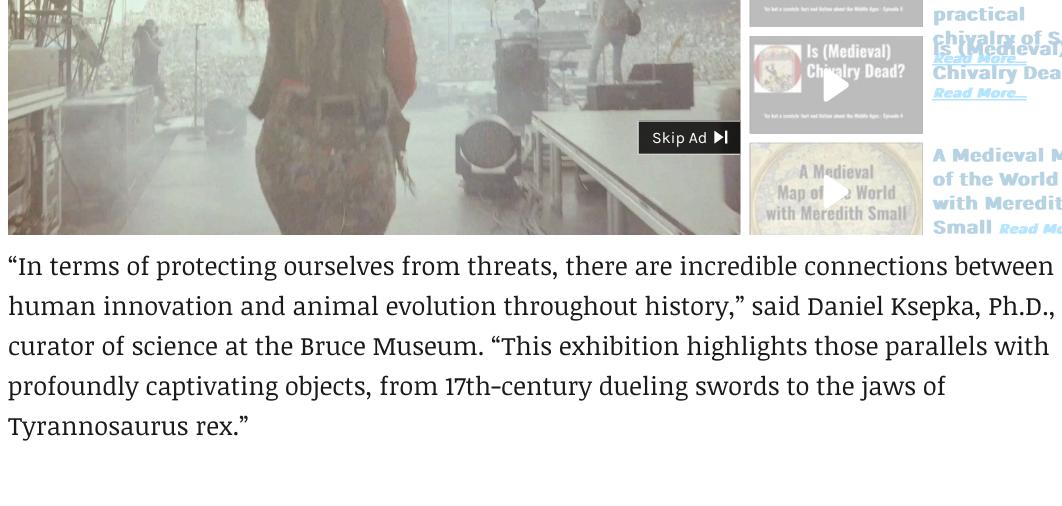


plate armor of the giant, extinct fish Dunkleosteus with the steel suits of armor worn by

knights during the Middle Ages. **Videos by Medievalists** The finest knight in all the world,' Part 2: William_ Read The finest knight in all the world': the practical





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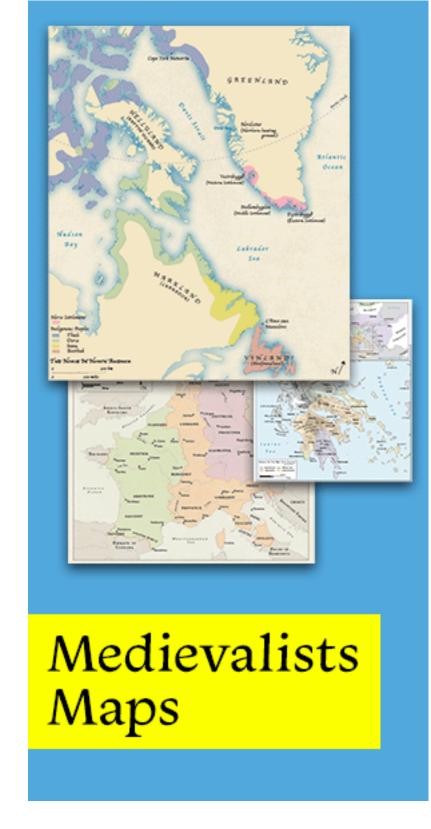
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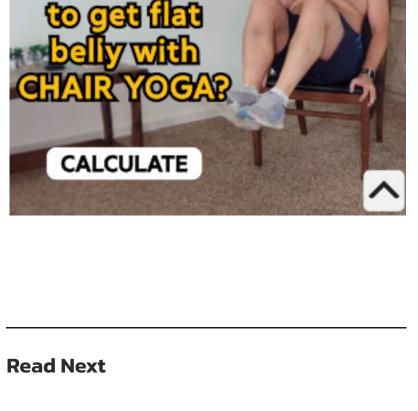


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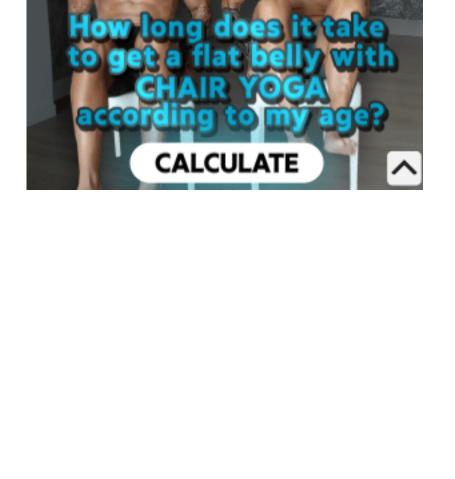


Medieval Armor in a Prayer Book

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impressive and even bizarre weaponry. The sharp horns of the steenbok antelope and the prominent pincher-like cranial projections of the Hercules beetle provide striking examples of features that are used to battle rivals rather than ward off predators. The unwieldy horns of the Hercules beetle in many ways mirror the long wooden lances used by jousting knights.

Beyond shared functions, the exhibition explores how intraspecies competition can lead to

Kukri from Nepal – Bruce Museum Collection 08783. Gift of Heinrich Dueringer. Photo by Paul Mutino

An unexpected example on view compares the Aztec macuahuitl, a club lined with razor

sharp obsidian, to the fangs of the vampire bat. These weapons each derive efficacy from

razor-sharp edges that easily cut into their target. While the edges of the bat incisors are

honed through intentionally grinding away the dentin layer of the teeth, the edges of the

human weapon are created by carefully fracturing volcanic glass.

Neither structure is ideal for lethal combat, but both are perfect for ritualized competition.

Kulah Khud Helmet, 18th-19th century, Persia – Bruce Museum Collection 16831.03. Gift of Miss Amelia F. MacFarlane. Photo by Paul Mutino

"Many of the most remarkable natural weapons evolve not for hunting or defending against

predators but for competing with members of one's own species," Ksepka said. "When

structures that are wildly impractical for normal activity, but which give an animal the

competition for mates or resources is channeled into ritual aggression, it can lead to

The exhibtion runs from March 7th to August 11th and features objects from the Bruce

Museum collection, as well as loans from the Worcester Art Museum, Stamford Museum &

Nature Center, Yale Peabody Museum and private collectors. To learn more, please visit the

upper hand in interspecies combat."

Bruce Museum website.

Suit of Armor – Photo and armor courtesy of Jeff Wasson

- <u>Major exhibition on medieval armor set to begin at Toledo Museum of Art</u>

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Arms and Armor of the Medieval Knight

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