

## Worksheet for Elizabeth Dospěl Williams's "Craft and Aesthetics in Byzantine and Early Islamic Textiles"

by Sascha Crasnow (to be used with video linked here)



## **Key Takeaways:**

1.	What kind of silk is the "Lion Tamer" textile? What does this mean in terms of process and technology?
2.	Where were textiles such as the "Lion Tamer" found and how were they used? What can this information tell us about the geographical circulation of these textiles?
3.	What are the similarities and differences between the "Lion Tamer" and "Horses and Lions" textiles shown in the video? What are the reasons for these differences in appearance?



4.	Where was the "Horses and Lions" textile found? What is the significance of this location?	
5.	What is unusual about the design motifs in the "Horses and Lions" textile?	
6.	What is different about the method of tapestry weaving? What does this mean for creating the similar repeating patterns that feature as the preferred aesthetic in tapestry at the time?	
Contextualizing the Work		
Choose another Byzantine or early Islamic textile or tapestry. Describe it both in terms of material and aesthetics. What do its manufacture and design reveal about the process through which it was made? How does this relate (if at all) to the function for which it was used or the person for whom it was made?		