

Lessons from Asian Art: *Material World*

Middle School Lesson



Eastern Asia: China, Korea, Japan



SOURCE: <https://www.mapsofworld.com/asia/regions/eastern-asia-map.html>





SOURCE: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/docs/refmaps.html>

Geography

	CHINA	KOREA	JAPAN	MICHIGAN
SQUARE MILES	3.705 million	38,691 (combined)	145,91	96,71
POPULATION	1.4 billion	North Korea: 25 million South Korea: 51 million	127 million	10 million
MILES OF COASTLINE	9,010	North Korea: 1,550 South Korea: 1,499	18,486	3,288
CLIMATE	Extremely diverse; tropical in south to subarctic in north	Temperate, with rainfall heavier in summer than winter; cold winters, especially in the North	Varies from tropical in south to cool temperate in north	Distinctive summers and winters with a fairly even distribution of precipitation throughout the year



Geography

	CHINA	KOREA	JAPAN	MICHIGAN
TERRAIN	Mostly mountains, high plateaus, deserts in west; plains, deltas, and hills in east	North: mostly hills and mountains with deep, narrow valleys; wide coastal plains in west; South: mostly hills and mountains; wide coastal plains in west and south	Mostly rugged and mountainous	Hilly and rugged in the western parts of the upper peninsula, flatter in the east; hilly in the northern lower peninsula and flatter in the south
NATURAL RESOURCES	Iron ore, tin, aluminum, lead, world's largest hydropower potential, arable land	North: iron ore, limestone, graphite, copper, lead, precious metals, hydropower South: graphite, lead, hydropower potential	Fish, timber, and very few mineral resources	Metallic and nonmetallic minerals, fish, forests,
LAND USE	Agricultural land: 55% Forest: 22% Other: 23%	North Korea/South Korea Agricultural: 22%/18% Forest: 46%/64% Other: 32%/18%	Agricultural land: 13% Forest: 69% Other: 19%	Agricultural land: 23% Forest: 47% Other: 30%



MEDIA: materials used to create a work of art

**From where do these materials come? Are they natural or synthetic?
How are they manipulated through tools and technology to make art?**

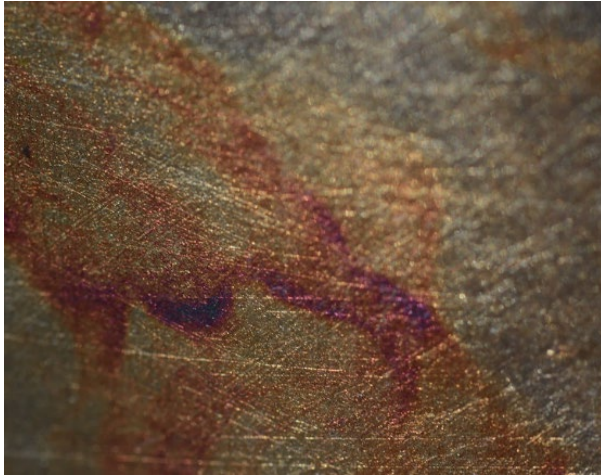
What media have you personally used?

What other media are available?



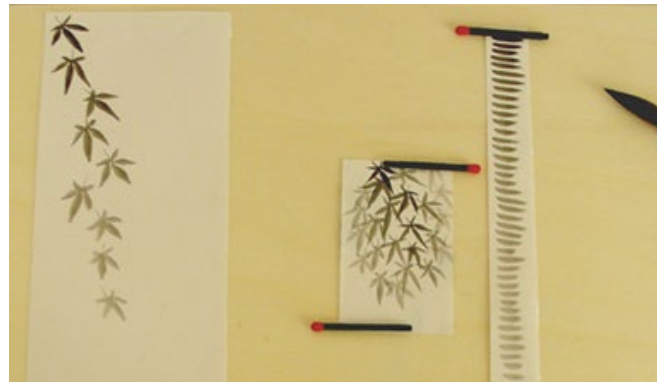
Metal

copper, bronze, iron



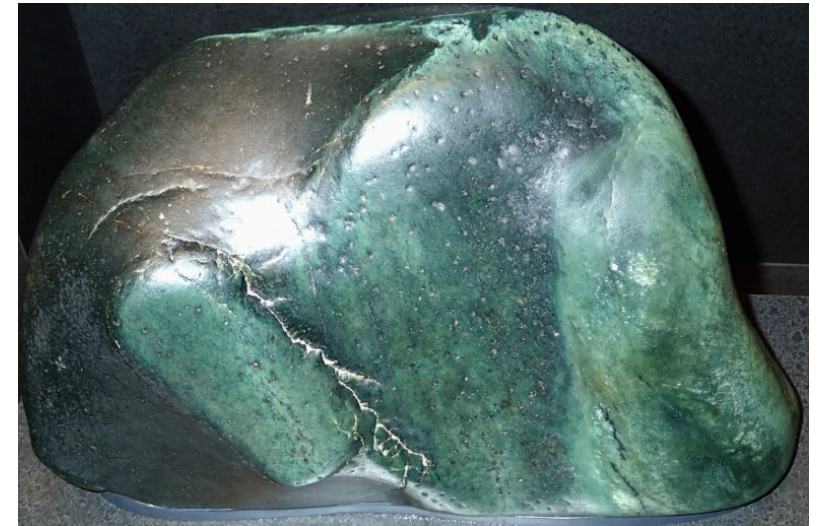
Paper

wood pulp or hemp
decorated with inks or
watercolors



Stone

soapstone, turquoise,
limestone, jade



Textiles
Silk and Metallic Threads



Wood
Rosewood, Bamboo



Ceramics
terracotta,
earthenware, stoneware,
porcelain



1. METAL

2. STONE

3. TEXTILES

THIS AND THAT

Classify works of art.

Compare museum objects to those in your homes.

4. WOOD

5. CERAMIC

6. PAPER



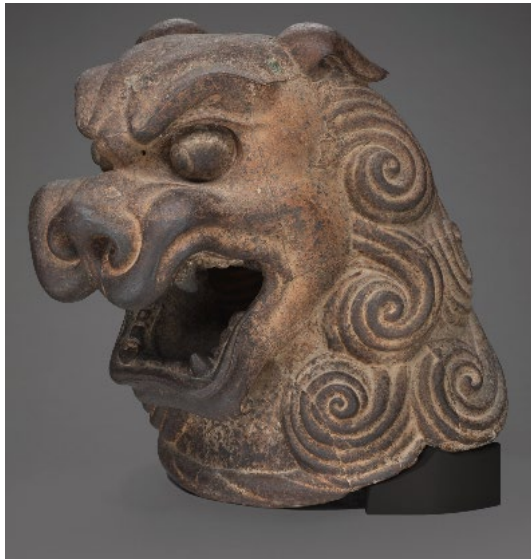
1



2



3



4



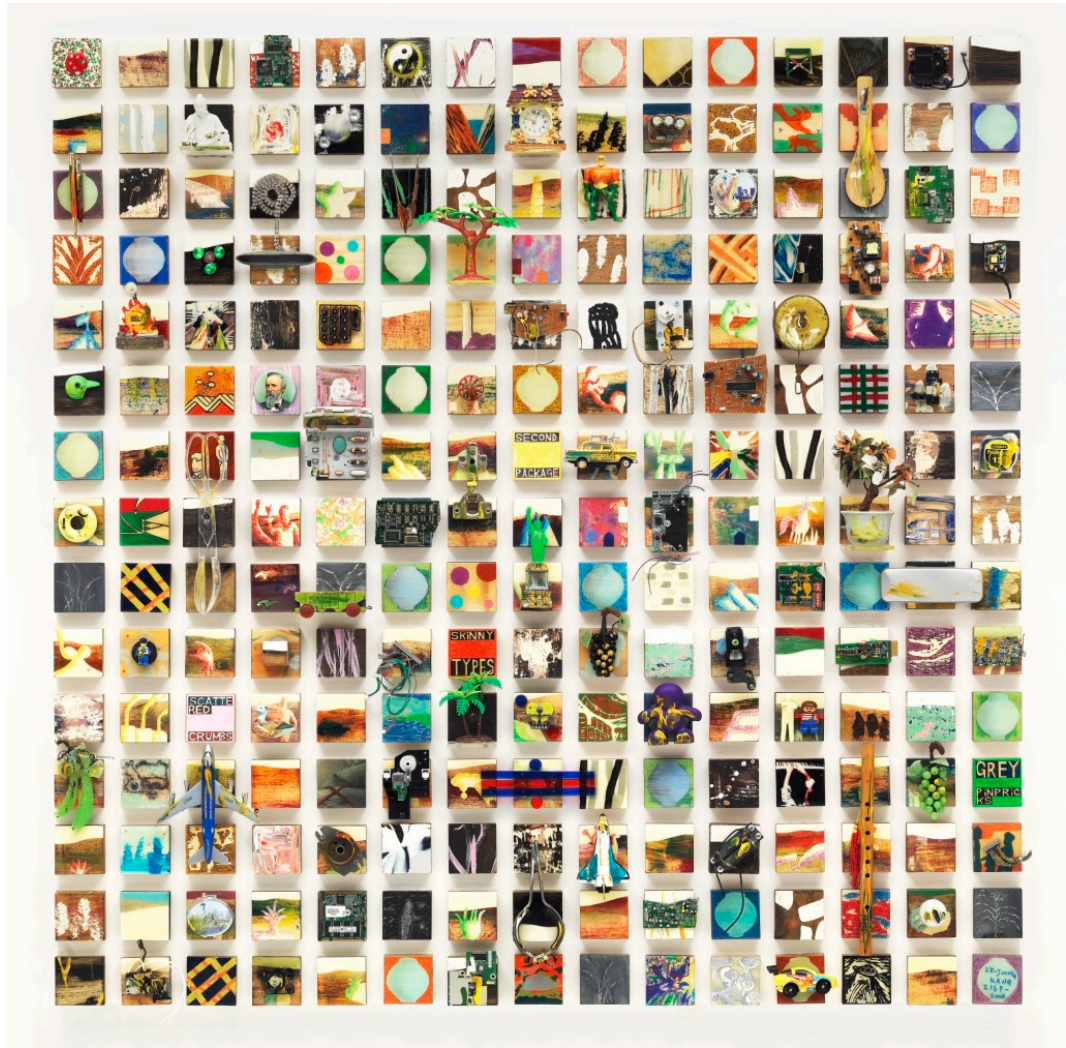
5



6



Mixed Media



1

2





1



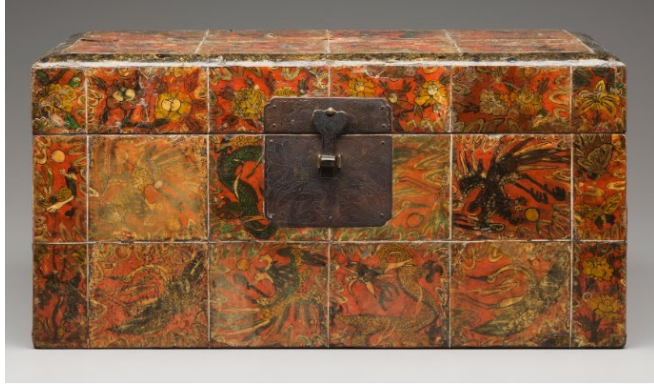
2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12

What materials did you discover?

Metal: copper, bronze, iron

Stone: soapstone, turquoise, limestone, jade

Textiles: silk and metallic threads

Wood: rosewood, bamboo

Ceramic: terracotta, earthenware, stoneware, porcelain

Paper: wood pulp or hemp decorated with inks or watercolors



Tea Bowl
no. 53.349

Making Connections

HISTORY

- How might the trade of raw materials have impacted art?

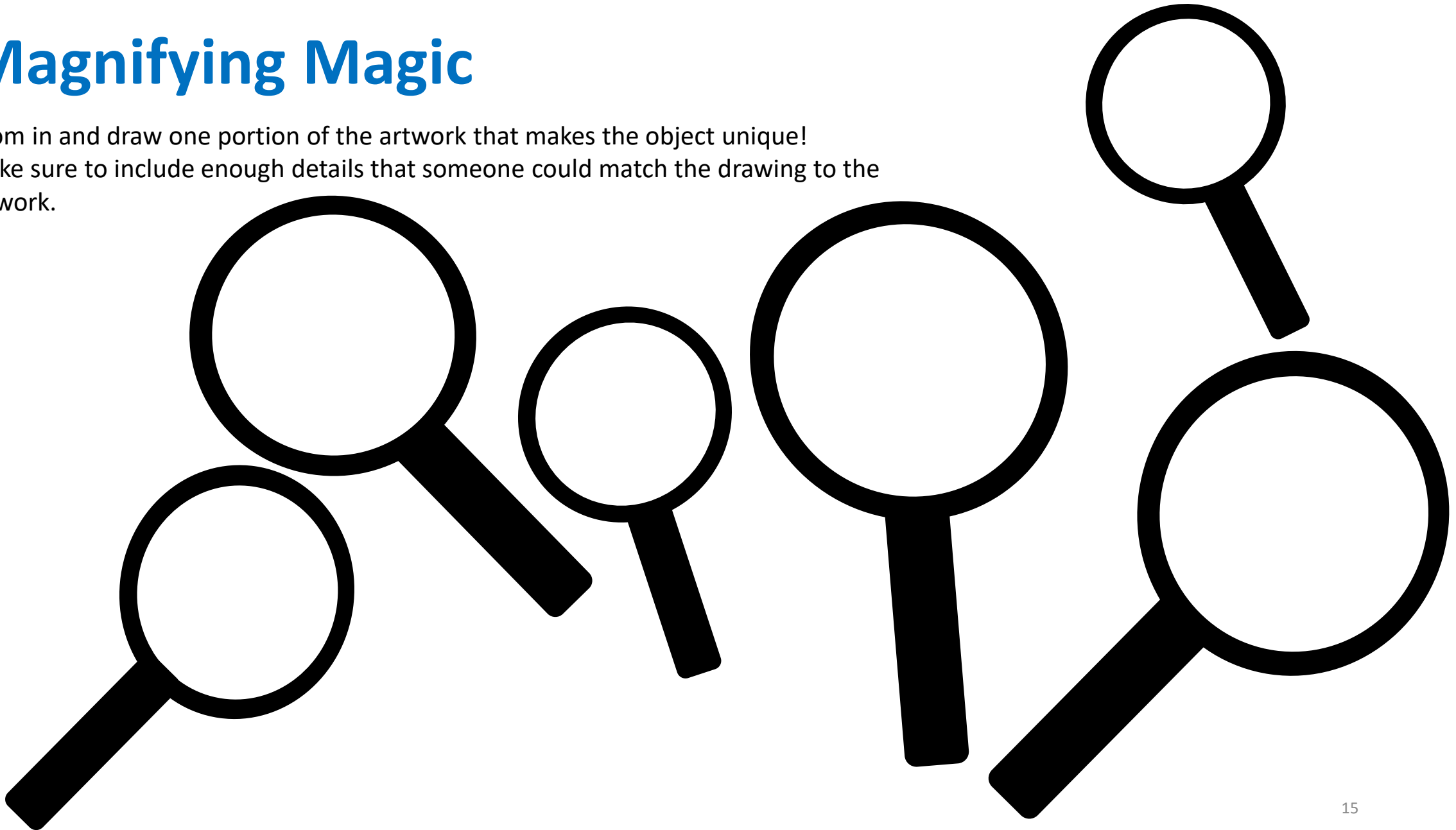
SCIENCE

- What impact might the extraction of these materials have on the environment?



Magnifying Magic

Zoom in and draw one portion of the artwork that makes the object unique!
Make sure to include enough details that someone could match the drawing to the artwork.





1



2



How did the artists involved in creating this Japanese screen transform raw materials into an aesthetically pleasing object?



Spring and Summer Palace Gardens, from The Tale of Genji
no. 27.541

TEAM TIME!

Share what you recorded on your **Magnifying Magic** graphic organizer.



- How did an object contribute to your study of materials?
- In what ways did the artist manipulate the media?
- How might the context (time & place) of the piece affect its importance, value, or meaning?
- What might the museum have to do to conserve this work?
- Select one work to investigate even further:
 - Where did its materials originate?
 - How has that medium been used differently
 - by different artists
 - in different regions
 - throughout time
 - for different types of art
 - different tools or technology,

Interconnection '15-4
no. 2017.9

Check out the work of the DIA's conservation team: <https://www.dia.org/art/conservation>



Material World Presentation

It's now time to apply these ideas to your own research to create a multimedia presentation or a visual display for presentation.

Remember the number that you rolled for the “This-and-That” activity

Select at least one piece of art from the DIA collection that uses the particular medium

Include in your presentation:

- Scientific information about the raw materials used to make the work of art, including possible places of origin
- Technological information regarding the tools and processes used by the artist(s) to manipulate the medium
- Visuals including maps to reference locations
- Cultural information regarding the purpose, function, or significance of the piece being examined
- Museum information, including a picture, the label copy, and any available provenance



Presentation Rubric

	ADVANCED	PROFICIENT	BASIC	LIMITED
Included scientific and technological information about the raw materials and tools used to make the work(s) of art.	Included detailed scientific and technological information about raw materials and tools.	Included scientific and technological information about raw materials and tools.	Included some scientific and/or technological information about raw materials and/or tools.	Included little scientific and/or technological information about raw materials and/or tools.
Added visuals including reference map(s) and photo(s) of the object(s).	Used specific, detailed visual evidence to enhance the viewer's understanding of the artwork(s).	Used visual evidence to assist the viewer's understanding of the artwork.	Added visual evidence that related to the artwork.	Added visual evidence that was not particularly related to the artwork.
Described cultural information regarding the purpose, function, or significance of the piece.	Described detailed cultural information regarding the purpose, function, and significance of the piece.	Described cultural information regarding the purpose, function, and significance of the piece.	Described cultural information regarding the purpose, function, or significance of the piece.	Described some cultural information regarding the piece but did not relate the information to its purpose, function, or significance.
Included museum-specific information about the object(s).	Successfully incorporated more than one specific museum object for the project.	Successfully incorporated information from one specific museum object for the project.	Incorporated some information from one specific museum object for the project.	Did not successfully incorporate information from a specific museum object for the project.
Overall creativity in presenting the research and attention to details such as grammar and citations.	Delivered a polished presentation with an attention to detail and creative/original ideas.	Delivered a presentation with details and creative or original ideas.	Delivered a presentation with some details but few creative or original ideas.	Did not complete a presentation but attempted at least part of the project.



Credit Lines

Page 10

1. Tibetan. *Turquoise Ornament*, 19th century. Turquoise, gold, silver, and coral, 4 1/2 × 3 × 1 3/4 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Founders Society Purchase with funds from Friends of Asian Art, J. Lawrence Buell, Jr. Fund, and Mr. and Mrs. Alvan Macauley, Jr. Fund. 1989.74
2. Japanese. *Set of Miniature Painting Albums*, ca. 18th–19th century. Albums: ink and watercolor on paper, Box: Wood, ink. Each album closed 3 3/16 × 1 3/4 × 11/16 in., Box 5 11/16 × 3 5/8 × 5 11/6 in. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Ancient Art Deaccession Fund, City of Detroit by exchange. 2013.72
3. Kumjoo Ahn (Korean, born 1967). *Bojaqi*, 2008. Silk, cloth, 16 × 16 1/2 × 18 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Ancient Art Deaccession Fund, gift from Mardiros Hagopo Bozyan by exchange. 2015.72
4. Chinese. *Lion's Head*, 1000–1127. Cast iron; 27 1/2 × 21 × 29 inches, 344 pounds. Detroit Institute of Arts, Founders Society Purchase, Edsel B. Ford Fund. 31.281
5. Korean. *Deep Bowl*, 12th–13th century. Stoneware with deep porcelaneous glaze, 3 3/8 × 8 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Leo S. Figiel and Dr. and Mrs. Steven J. Figiel. 74.87
6. Japanese. *Small Hand Drum*, 18th century. Wood, lacquer, gold, 10 × 4 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, funds from the Asian Art and Islamic World Forum. 2013.73

Page 11

1. Ik-Joong Kang (American, born Korea, 1960). *Happy World–Scattered Crumbs*, 2011 - 2014. Mixed media on wood, 59 × 59 × 6 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Contemporary Art Fund. 2015.66
2. *Happy World–Scattered Crumbs* (detail) 2011 - 2014.

Page 12

1. Korean. *Comb Case with Auspicious Symbols*, 19th–20th century. Wood, lacquer, mother-of-pearl, metal. 12 1/2 × 11 3/4 × 11 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Robert H. Tannahill Foundation Fund. 2015.5
2. Indian. *Page from Manuscript of the “Perfection of Wisdom in Eight Thousand Verses,”* ca. 1160. Ink and opaque watercolor on palm leaf, 2 1/8 × 17 7/8 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of P. Jackson Higgs. 27.586.1A
3. Japanese. *Sutra Scroll (Jingoji Sutra)* (detail), 1183–85. Gold and silver ink on indigo paper; gilded copper or silver roller, 10 × 123 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Founders Society Purchase, L. A. Young Fund. 61.5
4. Japanese. *Noh Mask for Namanari Role*, 17th century. Hinoki wood, paint, copper, 8 1/4 × 5 5/8 × 3 7/8 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Asian Department Deaccession Fund, and gifts from K. Magarian, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert V. Book, Robert H. Tannahill, Roy D. Chapin, Jr., Mrs. Walter Rundle, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Bryant by exchange. 2013.12
5. Korean. *Box with Design of Auspicious Symbols*, early 20th century. Ink and paint on ox horn panels on wood, ray skin, and metal, 10 1/4 × 20 3/4 × 12 1/4 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Founders Society Purchase, New Endowment Fund and funds from the Korean Community. 1986.3



Credit Lines

6. Japanese. *Set of Equipment for the Shell Game*, 18th Century. Lacquered wood boxes, clam shells painted in colors and gold, (Wood boxes) Height: 16 1/2 inches, Diameter: 13 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Founders Society Purchase, Benson Ford Fund. 1984.3
7. Tibetan. *Turquoise Ornament*, 19th century. Turquoise, coral, gold, silver, thread, Overall (with tassel): 12 × 1 1/16 × 2 1/4 inches, Detroit Institute of Arts, Founders Society Purchase with funds from Friends of Asian Art, J. Lawrence Buell, Jr. Fund, and Mr. and Mrs. Alvan Macauley, Jr. Fund. 1989.75
8. Chinese. *Shakyamuni as an Ascetic*, late 13th–early 14th century. Wood with lacquer, gilding, and traces of color, 11 3/4 × 8 1/8 × 6 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, City of Detroit Purchase. 29.172
9. Chinese. *Standing Guanyin with Child*, 19th century. Ivory and paint, 11 3/4 × 2 3/4 × 2 1/4 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of K. T. Keller. 63.185
10. Tibetan. *Buddhist Prayer Wheel*, 19th century. Copper, bronze, wood, 8 7/8 × 2 3/4 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Frederick Stearns. 90.1S14489
11. Chinese. *Money Tree*, 25–220 CE. Stoneware with green glaze, patinated bronze, 54 5/16 × 19 5/16 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Founders Society Purchase; gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Fisher by exchange. 1996.29
12. Japanese. *Tea Caddy (Cha-ire)*, 17th Century. Stoneware, glaze, ivory, 2 7/8 × 2 1/4 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, City of Detroit Purchase. 27.552

Page 13

Korean. *Tea Bowl*, 12th century. Stoneware with celadon glaze and silver, 2 3/4 × 4 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Founders Society Purchase, Laura H. Murphy Fund. 53.349

Page 16

1. Indian. *Page from Manuscript of the “Perfection of Wisdom in Eight Thousand Verses,”* ca. 1160. Ink and opaque watercolor on palm leaf, 2 1/8 × 17 7/8 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of P. Jackson Higgs. 27.586.1A
2. Indian. *Page from Manuscript of the “Perfection of Wisdom in Eight Thousand Verses,”* ca. 1160. Ink and opaque watercolor on palm leaf, 2 1/4 × 18 1/2 in. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of P. Jackson Higgs. 27.586.120B

Page 17

Japanese. *Spring and Summer Palace Gardens, from The Tale of Genji*, 1650–1700. Ink, color paint and gold on paper, Overall (fully open): 67 × 141 inches, Installed (with 40" wide angles.): 67 × 121 3/4 × 14 1/4 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, City of Detroit Purchase. 27.541

Page 18

Fujino Sachiko (Japanese, born 1950). *Interconnection ‘15–4*, 2015. Stoneware with matte glaze, 15 1/8 × 21 × 16 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, General Art Purchase Fund. 2017.9



Thank You

This educational resource was developed by Art teacher Angie Stokes in collaboration with the DIA Education Programs and Curatorial teams.

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