

Key Stage: 2

National Curriculum
Subject Area/s: History,
Geography, MFL and potential
for cross-curricular work

Length of session:
1 hour and 30 minutes (KS2)

Max group size: 32 pupils

Session outline

This session explores Chinese history, culture, art and language starting with the Shang dynasty and moving on to explore the changes over time.

Activity 1: Evidence from objects and early writing

- Using objects from the Shang dynasty children will learn more about life alongside the Yellow River.
- Pupils will look at oracle bones and discover how some aspects of Chinese writing have remained unchanged in nearly 3,000 years.

Activity 2: Looking closer

- Using the Coromandel screen as their focus children will discover how Chinese objects were traded across the world and learn a Chinese song.

Activity 3: Evidence from objects

- Pupils will handle original artefacts to discover more about the materials used and objects made in China.
- They will search the galleries for objects made from a variety of these materials.

Activity 4: Modern writing, the zodiac and festivals

- Pupils will have a go at writing Chinese Characters and make a 'Good Luck' envelope to take home.

Contact us for more information or to book:

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www.ashmolean.org/learn

Learning Outcomes

- Knowledge and understanding of using archaeological evidence to learn about the past.
- Knowledge and understanding about trade links with China.
- Understanding more about the different kinds of materials and technologies used by craftsmen.
- Awareness of similarities and differences between life in Ancient China and today.
- Learning about different writing systems.
- Improved speaking and listening skills.

'The best bit was having a go at Chinese writing!'

Key Stage 2 pupil
St Mark's Primary
School



Pre visit activities

- Locate China on a world map.
- Find the Yellow River (Huang He) Valley .
- Find out the dates of the Shang Dynasty.

Post visit activities

- Research traditional Chinese tales.
- Find out more about Chinese writing.
- Find out more about food in China. Try out some Chinese dishes
- Source Chinese objects - these might come from your own homes and make replicas of Chinese objects you have seen on your visit to create your own museum display in the classroom.

Resources

The following resources are available to download on our website:

www.ashmolean.org/ashwpress/easternart/ Where you will find the story of the monkey king.

www.ashmolean.org/learning-resources



This dragon robe was is made of silk and braid. The dragons are embrodered in gold thread. It is currently on display in Gallery 38, China from AD800.