

Artful Adventures

An interactive guide for families



# CHINA

Your  
Chinese  
Adventure  
Awaits You!

*See inside for details*

# CHINA

This guide will take you on a make-believe journey to China. China is on the continent of Asia. A continent is a large area of land, and planet Earth has seven continents. Find them all on this map.



Gulf Coast, Veracruz, Mexico, Middle Preclassic, Olmec: kneeling lord with incised toad on his head, ca. 800 B.C. Stone with traces of cinnabar, h. 17.6 cm., w. 10.8 cm., d. 10.1 cm. Museum purchase, gift of Mrs. Gerard B. Lambert by exchange (y1976-21). Photo: Bruce M. White.

Now imagine you are getting on a plane and flying to China . . .

The Chinese gallery is on the lower level of the Museum. Walk down the stairs, turn left, and look for the jar shown on the left. It is high up, so you might have to stand on your tiptoes.

We are not just taking a trip to China—we are going back in time to look at objects that people made thousands of years ago. As you look at the objects, try to picture how people lived back then.

This jar is very old—over four thousand years old! Think about jars you have at home. **Do you think they would last that long? Why do you think this one lasted so long?**

This jar is still here because it was buried underground.



Archaeologists learn about the past by digging up things and studying what they find. They must have been very excited to find a jar like this.

After archaeologists dig up something, they look at it very carefully for clues. Think like an archaeologist while you look at this jar.



What shapes do you see? (circle the shapes you see)

**Squares**      **Circles**      **Spirals**      **Rectangles**

What colors do you see? (circle the colors you see)

**Red**      **Blue**      **Tan**      **Green**      **Silver**

What do you think people in ancient China put in this jar?

What makes you think that?



People used these pots—they might have put rope through the holes on the sides to carry the pots around. They also placed them in tombs. A tomb is where someone is buried.



Chinese, Western Zhou dynasty, 11th century–771 b.c., Pouring vessel with dragon-head lid (guang), late 11th century b.c.e., Bronze, h. 31.3 cm., w. 16.0 cm., l. 36.0 cm., 5.3 g. Museum purchase from the C. D. Carter Collection, gift of the Arthur M. Sackler Foundation (y1965-3).

Go to the long case on the far wall and find this imaginary creature with jagged teeth and horns who was buried in a tomb!

This creature is really a vessel—like a pitcher that can be filled with liquid. But we do not know for sure what was put inside it. **Do you have a pitcher at home? What do you put in it?**

There's more than one creature on this vessel. **Can you find the head of a second creature on the back of the lid?**

**Can you find the figures that look like birds on the sides? How many do you see?**

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What words would you use to describe the monster in the case? (circle two or write your own)

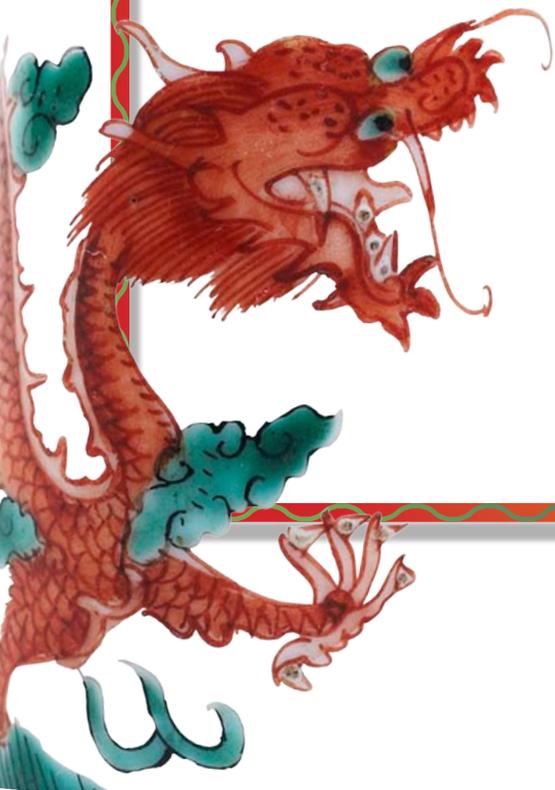
Scary

Cute

Funny

Ugly

Mean





We know the name of the person who owned this pitcher, Wen Fu Ding. We know this because there is an inscription inside that says his name and has a character for the sun.

Chinese does not have an alphabet like English does. The Chinese language has characters that are made up of strokes, like lines or brush marks. Alphabet letters are sounds. For instance, the English letter “B” is the sound “buh.” Chinese characters are not sounds—they are words.

Chinese is one of the oldest written languages, but the characters have changed a lot over the 3,000 years since this vessel was made. Today the Chinese dictionary contains about 50,000 characters.



This character means tiger:



Copy the character for tiger in the space next to it. When you are writing in Chinese, every stroke in a character should be made in order. Make sure you get all the strokes in the right order from one to eight.



Now let's learn more about how people lived in ancient China. We started with a jar that was more than four thousand years old. Now we are going to look at figures and animals from a tomb. They are 1500 years old.

**Look in the middle of this gallery for the rows of tomb figures in two cases (hint: here are two of them).**

People in ancient China may have believed that a person should be buried with all of his or her most important things, so they made clay people and animals to put in tombs.

**How many animals can you find? Write them here.**

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**How many musicians can you find? (hint: look for instruments)**

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**How many soldiers? (hint: look for shields)**

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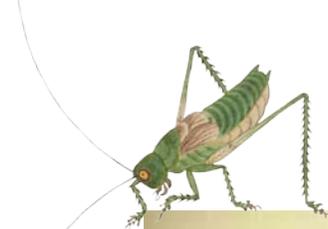
**Can you find two imaginary creatures that were used to protect the tomb? These are called tomb guardians because they guard the tomb.**

**Did you find this camel?**

**Look at what is on his back. See the poles?** Those are for tents. And the camel has big packs, too, for carrying things. This camel might have traveled on the Silk Routes. Merchants in China traveled across the continent of Asia to trade goods and animals. They even traveled in boats across oceans and seas. The routes they took were called the Silk Routes because China was famous for silk. People all along the Silk Routes loved to trade things for silk.

Chinese, Eastern Han or Three Kingdoms period, a.d. 205–280, Northern Wei, 386–535: Standing camel, early 6th century. Gray clay with cream colored slip, red paint, h. 18.5 cm., w. 23.7 cm., d. 13.1 cm. Gift of J. Lionberger Davis, Class of 1900 (Y1950-93).





Chinese, Southern Song dynasty, 1127–1279, Guanyin seated in Royal-ease pose, ca. 1250. Wood with traces of blue-green, red, and gold pigments on white clay underlayer with relief designs, h. 110.0 cm., approx w. 79.0 cm., approx d. 50.0 cm. Museum purchase, Carl Otto von Kienbusch Jr., Memorial Collection (1950-66).

Not only animals and goods traveled on the Silk Routes, but also ideas. The religion Buddhism started in India and traveled to China with monks and merchants.

Find this large statue sitting on a ledge. This is Guanyin, the Buddhist Bodhisattva of Infinite Compassion. Bodhisattvas are special beings who are very kind and try to help other people. Guanyin is especially gentle. Buddhists pray to Guanyin to help with their problems.

This statue would have been placed in a temple where Buddhists went to pray.

Because Guanyin is such a special being, this Bodhisattva usually wears regal garments, jewelry, and a crown.

**Guanyin often sits like this—it is called the pose of royal ease. Try sitting the way Guanyin is sitting. Do you feel comfortable?**

Thank you for joining us today to explore the Art of Ancient China. Don't forget to stop at the Information Desk to collect the China sticker for your Artful Adventures Passport. We hope you enjoyed your visit to the Princeton University Art Museum and that you will come back to join us for another Artful Adventure.

On the next pages are some suggestions for ways that you can continue your China adventure at home.





# Art Project: Make your own tomb guardian mask!

You will need:

Cardstock or other sturdy material (this is the base for the mask)

Hole punch

Elastic cord (this is to help the mask stay on)

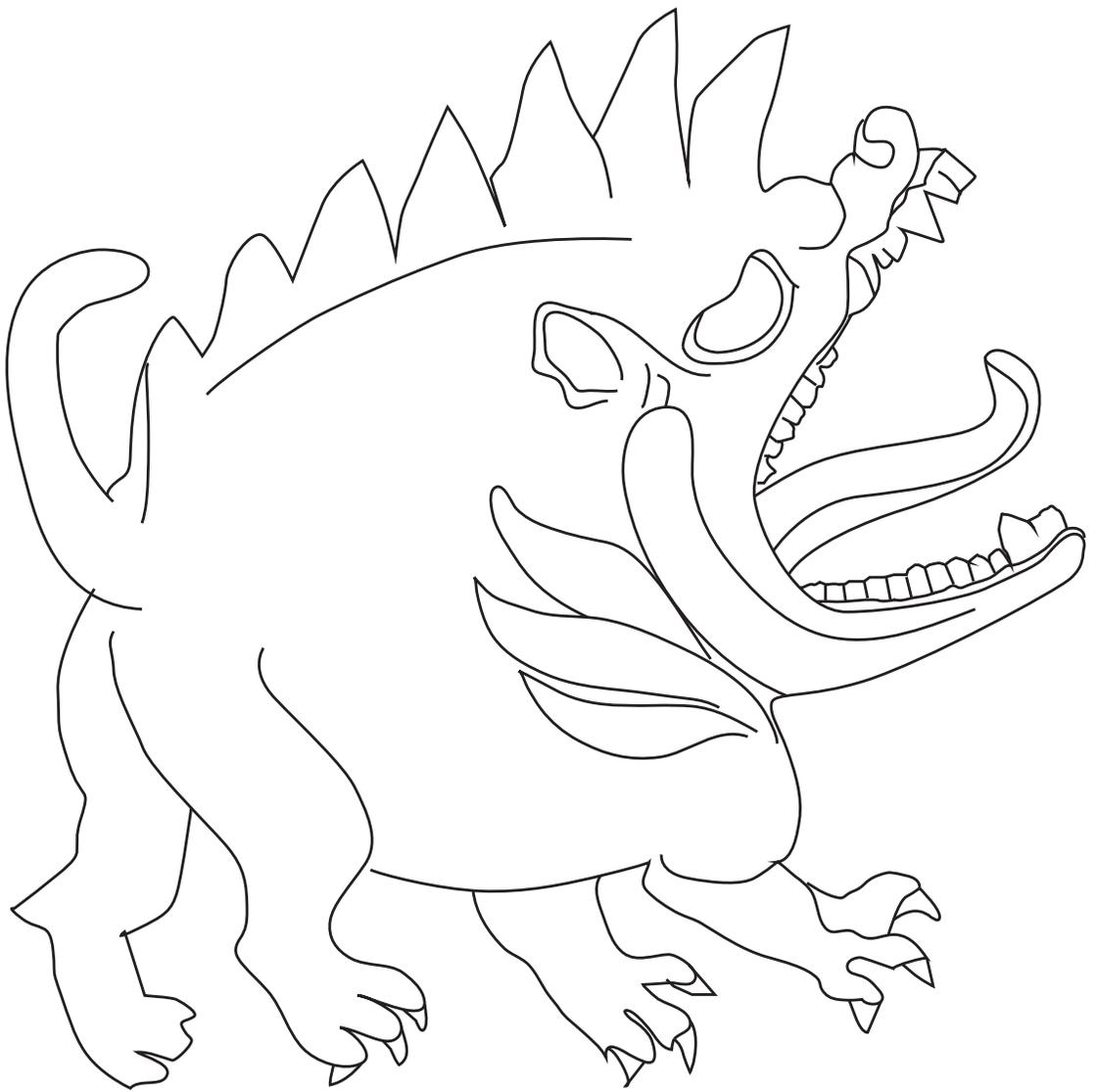
Materials for decorating (markers, crayons, pipe cleaners, feathers, etc.)

1. **To begin, cut out the shape of your mask. Don't forget holes for your eyes. You may want to ask a grown-up to help with this.**
2. **Use the hole punch to make a hole in each side of the mask. Later, you will tie the elastic cord through each hole—this will help the mask stay on your head.**
3. **Use your imagination to create the rest of the mask. You can decorate it any way you want. You might be inspired by the tomb guardians you saw at the museum.**
4. **When you are done decorating, tie the elastic cord through the holes you made. You may want to ask a grown-up for help again.**
5. **Now put your mask on and have lots of fun!**

**Color Me:**



**Color Me:**



# Suggested Reading

## Picture books:

*Good Morning China*, by Hu Yong Yi

*Lin Yi's Lantern: A Moon Festival Tale*, by Brenda Williams; illustrations by Benjamin Lacomb

## Non-fiction for young children:

*Favorite Children's Stories from China and Tibet*, by Lotta Carswell Hume; illustrations by Koon-Chiu Lo

*D is for Dancing Dragon: A China Alphabet*, by Carol Crane; illustrations by Zong-Zhou Wang



## Fiction for older children:

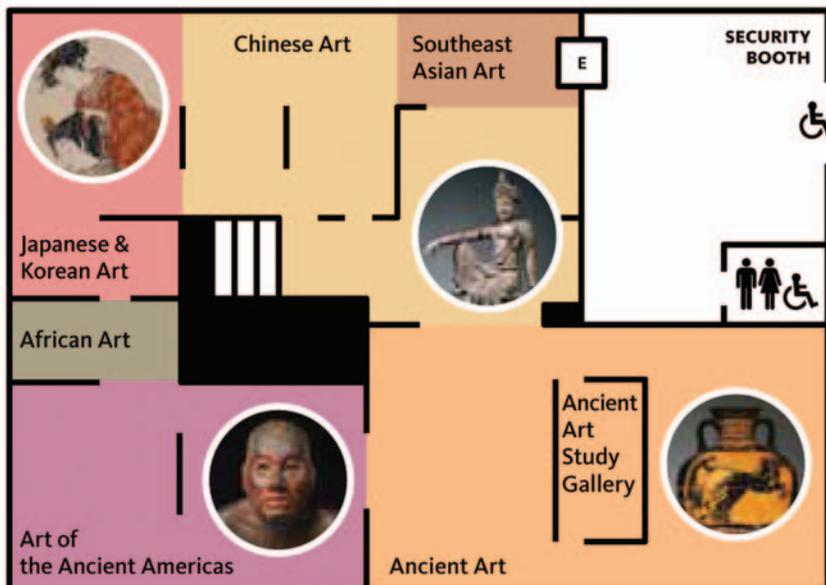
*Beyond the Great Mountains: A Visual Poem about China*, by Ed Young

## Non-fiction for older children:

*Kids around the World: We Live in China*, by Pascal Pilon and Elisabeth Thomas; illustrations by Sophie Duffet

All of these books can be found in the children's section of the Princeton Public Library

## Lower galleries of Museum map:





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ART MUSEUM