

Lessons from Asian Art:
*Cultural Diplomacy
Through Ceramics*

High 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	3.7 million	39 thousand (combined)	145 thousand	97 thousand
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

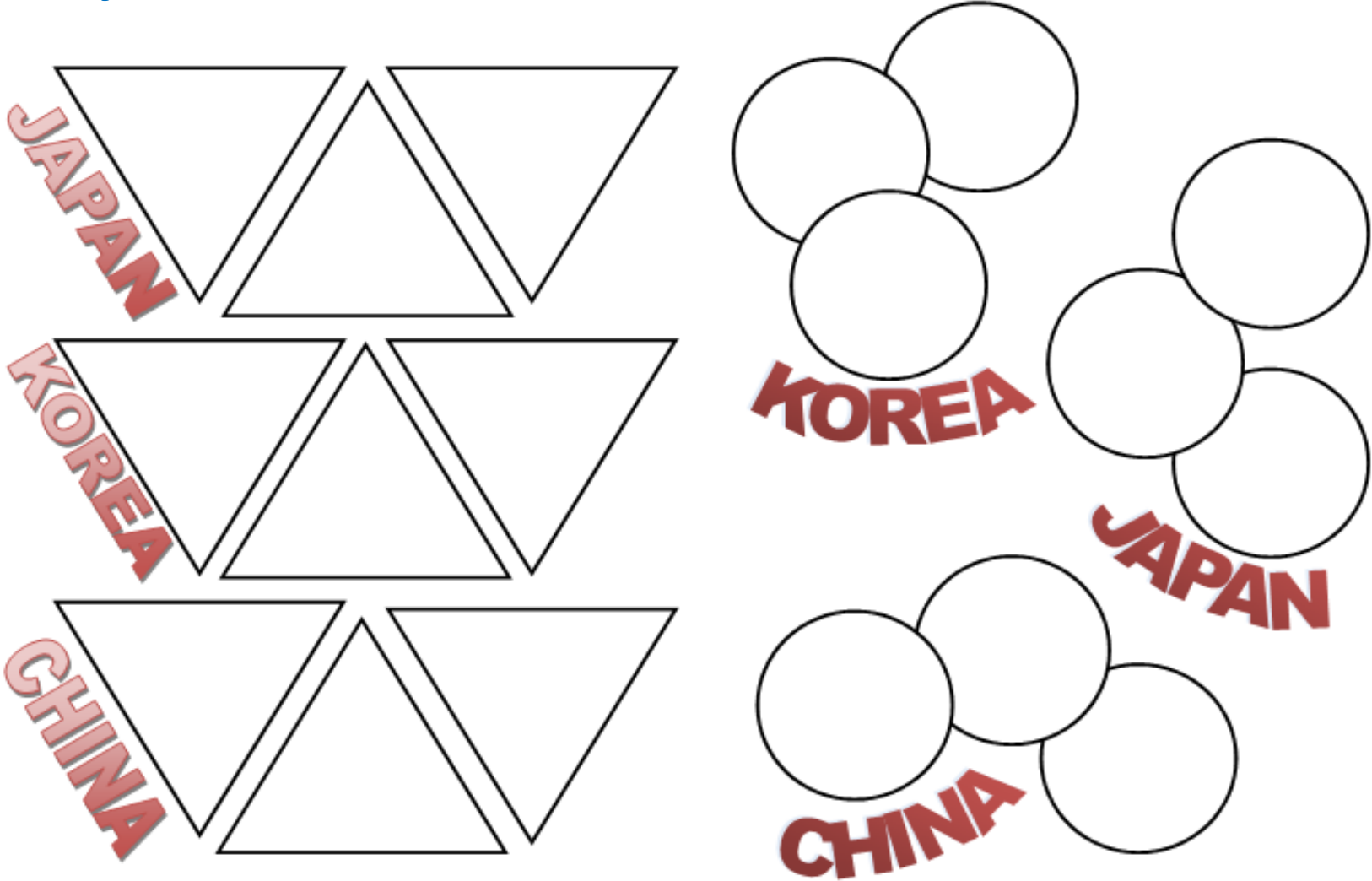


Geography

	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%



Similarities and differences between Chinese, Japanese, & Korean ceramics

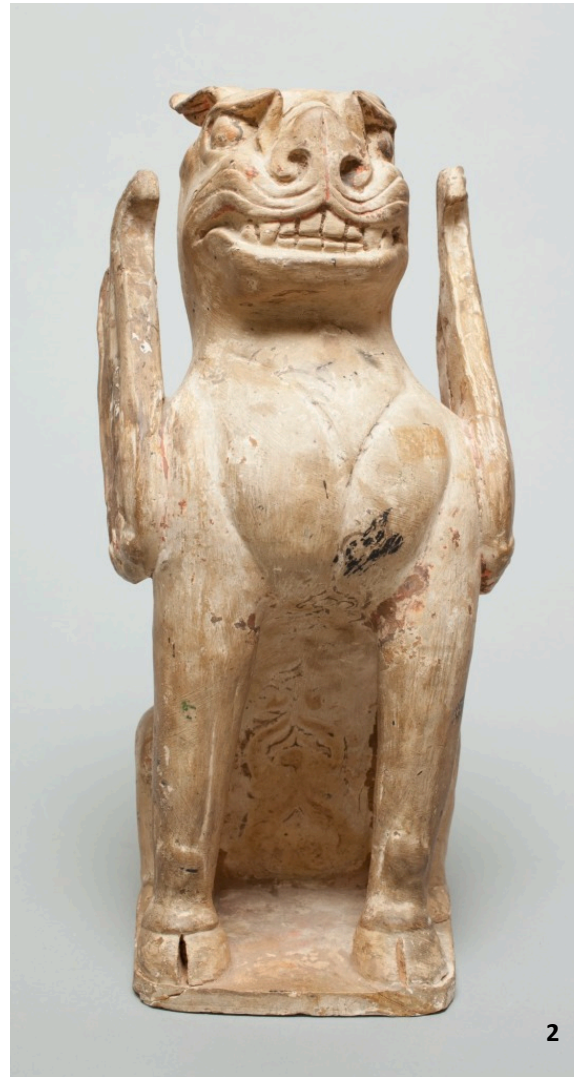


Chinese Ceramics



Ox and Cart

1



2

Lion-headed Earth Spirit



3

Lady with Phoenix Headdress

Chinese Ceramics



Porcelain Jar with Celadon Glaze ¹



Zun Vessel ²

Chinese Export Ceramics



Beaker Vase (Gu) 1



Bowl 2



Plate 3

Korean Ceramics



Jar with Pedestal Base

1



*Jar with Designs
of Plum and Bamboo*

2



*Porcelain
Bottle*

3



Buncheong Bowl

4

Japanese Ceramics



Tea Storage Jar



Tea Bowl



Ceramics vary based on the regional characteristics of the clay and glazes used as well as building and firing techniques.



1

618-906 CE

Lady with Phoenix Headdress
China



2

15th century
Storage Jar
Japan



3

19th century
Bottle with Dragon
Korea

18th century
Moon Jar
Korea



Moon Jar
no. 1984.2

Celadon



China

1



Thailand

2



China

3



Korea

4



1



2



1



2



Comparisons



Japan

1



China

2



Japan

3



China

4



China

5

Beyond China's Borders

What do objects such as these suggest about the development of trade following the Age of Exploration?



1

Consider the stereotypes and misunderstandings of Chinese people that are embedded in objects such as these.

How do such objects exoticize non-white ethnic groups?

Why is this problematic?



2

National Treasures?



China

1



Korea

2

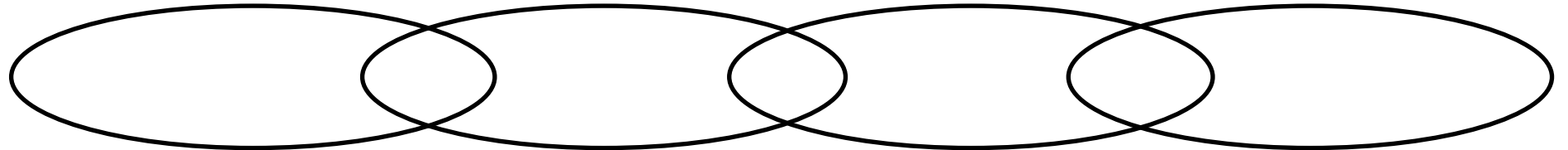


Japan

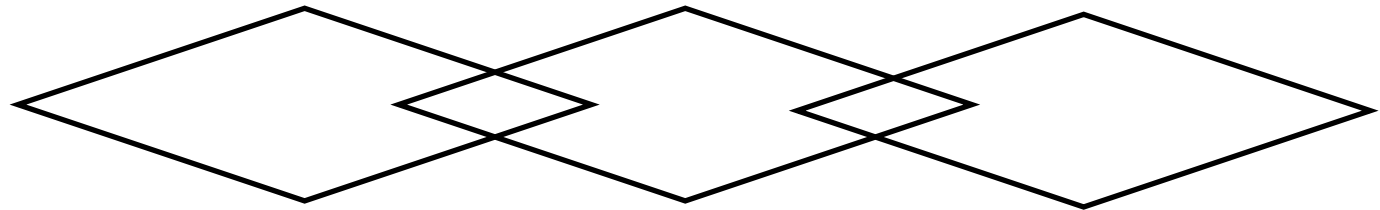
3

Draw And Decide

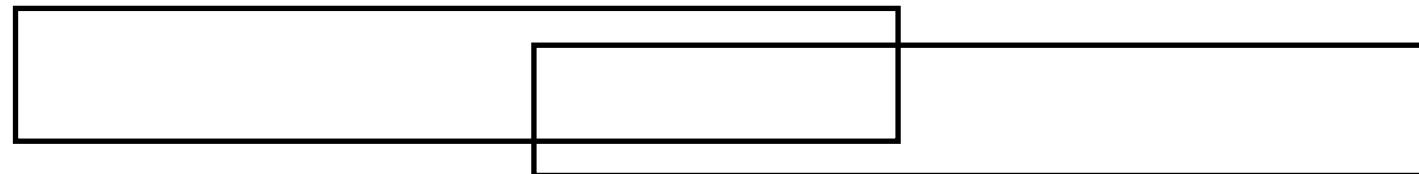
Select four Korean ceramic pieces in the wall display to compare & contrast in media & form using this Venn:



Examine the collection of ceramics used as part of the Japanese tea practice, making note of the special qualities of three pieces:



Select two Chinese ceramic pieces with different functions, identifying some of the similarities and differences in the Venn diagram boxes:



Make sure to include the title of each work you analyze in the diagram shape provided.

Artwork Review

- Which ceramics stood out the most? Why?
- Thinking abstractly, what “power” do certain ceramic pieces have? Were there any pieces that you felt to have more power than others?
- What made you decide to select a specific object for your research--what attracted you and why?
- How did those works compare to the others you did not choose to examine more closely?



Through Time and Place

Stretching from Xi'an in the east to Constantinople and Rome in the west, "the Silk Road" was an overland network of trade routes that developed in the centuries before the common era and lasted until the decline of the Mongol Empire in the fourteenth century C.E. Along with these overland trade routes, sea routes played a role of growing importance during the Age of Exploration in the fifteenth century. Commodities traded along the Silk Road routes included textiles, ceramics, glass, metalwork, sculpture, silk, and porcelain from China, sandalwood from present-day India, lapis lazuli and rock crystal from present-day Uzbekistan, wool carpets and tapestries from present-day Iran, and glassware from present-day Italy.

Today's One-Belt, One-Road Initiative expands this network to include new regions of Eurasia and parts of eastern Africa. The map at right notes major cities along both the Silk Road (marked with yellow stars) and the One Belt, One Road Initiative (marked with green flags). Using the graphic organizer on the other side of this page and the DIA's website, see if you can find examples of ceramic works in the DIA's collection from any of these areas.

For an added challenge, can you identify each of the following locations marked on the map? Create a number key starting with 1 for Xi'an, China (which is noted in red as it was a site along both the Silk Road and today's belt) and mark each tag with the correct number.



Through Time And Place

Silk Road

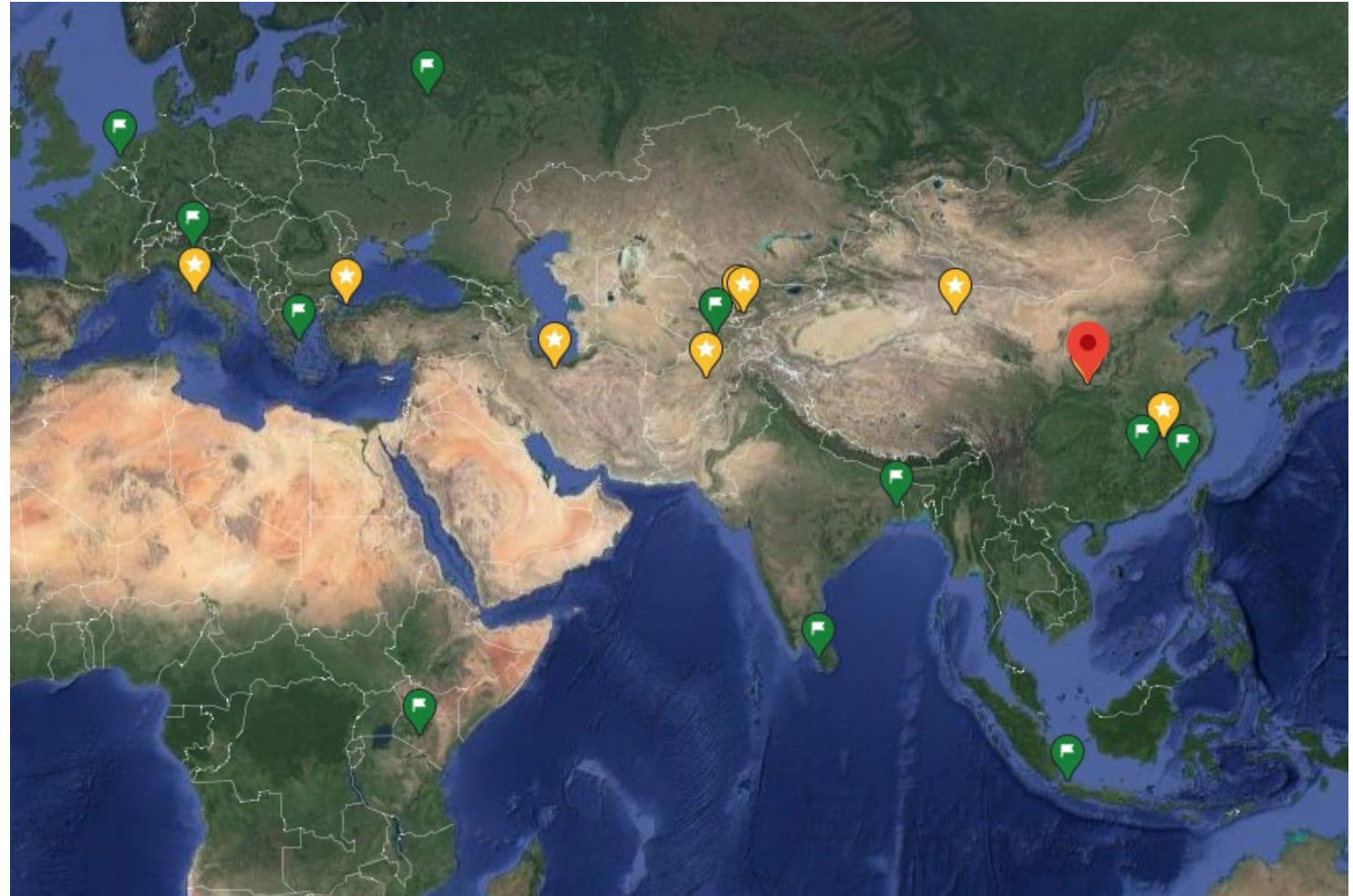
Marked with yellow stars

- Xi'an, present-day China (in red)
- Chang'an, present-day China
- Dunhuang, present-day China
- Bamiyan, present-day Afghanistan
- Ferghana, present-day Uzbekistan
- Samarkand, present-day Uzbekistan
- Shush, present-day Iran
- Constantinople (Istanbul), present-day Turkey
- Rome, present-day Italy

One-belt, One-road Initiative

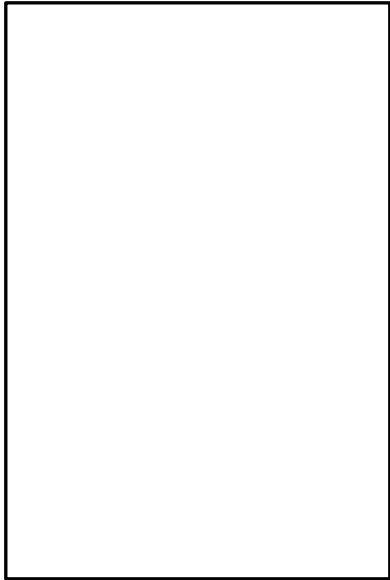
Marked with green flags

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Jiangxi, China | Venice, Italy |
| Fuzhou, China | Rotterdam, Netherlands |
| Jakarta, Indonesia | Netherlands |
| Colombo, Sri Lanka | Moscow, Russia |
| Kolkata, India | Dushanbe, Kazakhstan |
| Nairobi, Kenya | Kazakhstan |
| Athens, Greece | Xi'an, China |



Through Time and Place

Find at least five examples of ceramics from the countries on the trade routes.
Sketch and label each example.



Location

Object Name

Date

No.

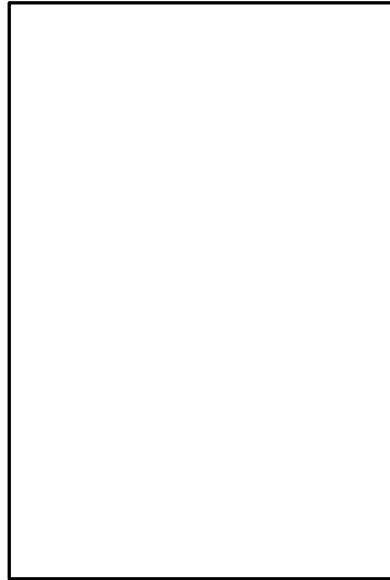


Location

Object Name

Date

No.



Location

Object Name

Date

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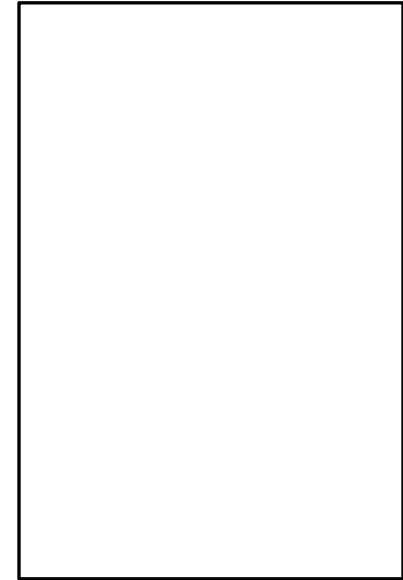


Location

Object Name

Date

No.



Location

Object Name

Date

No.



Through Time and Place

Using specific evidence from this investigation, let's answer the following questions:

What common ceramic forms (shapes of vessels), motifs (repeated designs or colors), or uses (function) did you see in your ceramic works?

What evidence might these pieces show that demonstrate an exchange of materials, techniques, technology, or ideas over time and place?



What makes a ceramic work of art a significant cultural symbol? How are contemporary ceramic objects being used as examples of cultural diplomacy?



After reading about one Korean's view on contemporary art and national treasures, <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20170512009100315>, ask students to respond in a reflective essay to the question Yi Young-hoon poses at the end of the article by explaining how our own culture might be evaluated by our descendants.

Credit Lines

SLIDE 7

1. Chinese. [Ox and Cart](#), 220–589 CE. Earthenware, 8 1/2 × 7 3/4 × 16 5/8 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Mrs. Robert T. Keller. 1994.144
2. Chinese. [Lion-headed Earth Spirit](#), late 6th–early 7th century. Earthenware, paint, 13 3/8 × 6 × 6 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Theodore and Diana Golden. 2001.149.2
3. Chinese. [Lady with Phoenix Headdress](#), 618–906. Earthenware with three-color glaze, 17 1/2 × 4 × 3 5/8 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, City of Detroit Purchase. 29.342

SLIDE 8

1. Chinese. [Jarlet](#), 18th–19th century. Celadon glazed porcelain, Overall: 2 1/2 × 3 inches, Including base: 3 1/2 × 3 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Bequest of James Pearson Duffy. 2010.168
2. Chinese. [Zun Vessel](#), 18th–19th century. Glazed porcelain, Overall: 4 1/4 × 3 1/4 inches, Including base: 5 1/4 × 3 1/4 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Bequest of James Pearson Duffy. 2010.167

SLIDE 9

1. Chinese (for export to the European Market). [Beaker Vase \(Gu\)](#), ca. 1700. Porcelain, underglaze blue, 20 1/8 × 9 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Robert H. Tannahill Foundation Fund. 2018.23.1
2. Chinese (for export to the European or American Market). [Bowl](#), ca. 1850. Glazed hard paste porcelain with polychrome enamel, 5 3/8 × 12 3/4 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of an anonymous donor. F1985.48

3. Chinese (for export to the North American Market). [Plate](#), early 19th century. Black transfer printed porcelain, Diam. 9 5/8 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of the Estate of William H. Murphy. 30.307.24

SLIDE 10

1. Korean. [Jar with Pedestal Base](#), mid-1st–mid-6th century. Stoneware, 14 × 9 3/4 × 39 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Robert H. Tannahill Foundation Fund. 2015.10
2. Korean. [Jar with Designs of Plum and Bamboo](#), 19th–early 20th century. Porcelain, underglaze cobalt, 5 1/4 × 5 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Founders Society Purchase with funds from the Friends of Asian Art in honor of Dr. Bonnie Abiko, and funds from the Korean Community, the Korean Women’s Association, and KyungAe Bae. 1998.11
3. Korean. [Porcelain Bottle with Underglaze Plant Design](#), 17th century. Porcelain, underglaze iron pigment, 6 5/8 × 4 3/4 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Philip Kang. 2016.105
4. Korean. [Buncheonong Bowl](#), 15th century. Stoneware, slip, glaze, 3 1/4 × 7 3/4 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Robert H. Tannahill Foundation Fund. 2015.12

Credit Lines

SLIDE 11

1. Japanese. [Tea Storage Jar](#), late 16th–early 17th century. Stoneware with ash glaze, 16 7/8 × 17 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Founders Society Purchase, New Endowment Fund and Henry Ford II Fund. 1989.73
2. Japanese. [Tea Bowl](#), late 16th–early 17th century. Mino ware, Oribe-guro type stoneware, 3 3/8 × 5 7/16 in. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Robert H. Tannahill Foundation Fund. 2013.42

SLIDE 12

1. Chinese. [Lady with Phoenix Headdress](#), 618–906. Earthenware with three-color glaze, 17 1/2 × 4 × 3 5/8 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, City of Detroit Purchase. 29.342
2. Japanese. [Storage Jar](#), 15th century. Stoneware with ash glaze, 20 7/8 × 12 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Founders Society Purchase with funds from the Friends of Asian Art, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Shelden III Fund, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Buhl Ford II Fund. 1989.45
3. Korean. [Bottle with Dragon](#), 19th century. Porcelain, underglaze cobalt, 13 1/4 × 8 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, funds from the G. Albert Lyon Foundation Fund. 2016.104

SLIDE 13

Korean. [Moon Jar](#), 18th century. Porcelain with glaze, 14 1/2 × 14 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Founders Society Purchase, G. Albert Lyon Fund and L. A. Young Fund, with additional funds from Mrs. George Endicott and Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Endicott. 1984.2

SLIDE 14

1. Chinese. [Temple Vase](#), 1279–1368. Porcelaneous stoneware, celadon glaze, 28 1/8 × 12 3/4 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Mrs. Edsel Ford. 28.1
2. Thai. [Stem Bowl with Incised Lotus and Concentric Bands](#), 14th century. Stoneware, celadon glaze, 6 1/2 × 9 1/8 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of the Honorable and Mrs. G. Mennen Williams. 73.308
3. Chinese. [Large Bowl with Incised Floral and Wave Designs](#), late 14th century. Stoneware, celadon glaze, 5 1/8 × 12 1/4 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of the Honorable and Mrs. G. Mennen Williams. 73.338
4. Korean. [Dish with Incised Lotus Designs](#), 12th–14th Century. Stoneware, celadon glaze, 1 1/2 × 5 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Irving F. Burton. 65.368

SLIDE 15

1. Korean. [Pillow](#), 12th–13th century. Stoneware with slip and celadon glaze, 4 3/4 × 9 1/2 × 3 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Founders Society Purchase, New Endowment Fund, and Benson and Edith Ford Fund. 80.39
2. Korean. [Bowl with Inlaid Clouds and Cranes](#), 12th–13th century. Stoneware, slip, celadon 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



Credit Lines

SLIDE 16

1. Kamada Koji (Japanese, born 1948). [Tenmoku Tea Bowl](#), 2014. Stoneware with Tenmoku glaze, 2 3/4 × 5 1/8 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Friends of Asian Arts and Cultures Acquisition Fund in honor of Graham W. J. Beal. 2015.70
2. Chinese. [Bowl](#), 13th century. Stoneware, glaze, 3 × 10 9/16 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of the Honorable and Mrs. G. Mennen Williams. 73.309
3. Hamada Shoji (Japanese, 1894–1978). [Bowl](#), ca. 1950. Stoneware with clear and iron glazes, Height: 3 in. Diameter: 8 1/2 in. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Mrs. Richard H. Webber. 57.118
4. Chinese. [Large Deep Plate with Incised Peonies and Wave Design](#), 14th–15th century. Stoneware with celadon glaze, 2 3/8 × 13 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of the Honorable and Mrs. G. Mennen Williams. 73.321
5. Chinese. [Shallow Dish with Design of Boys Playing Among Lotus](#), ca. 1200. Porcelain with "shadow blue" glaze, 7 1/2 × 1 3/4 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Founders Society Purchase, with funds from the Friends of Asian Art and Dr. John V. and Annette Balian. 1991.169

SLIDE 17

1. Meissen Porcelain Manufactory, German, founded 1710, Manufacturer. Johann Gregor Höroldt, German, 1696–1775, Decorator. [Teapot](#), 1723 or 1724. Hard-paste porcelain, vitreous enamel, gold; silver-gilt mounts, 5 × 4 1/4 × 6 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Founders Society Purchase, gift of Ruth Nugent Head and City of Detroit by exchange. 1992.43

2. Hoechst, German, Manufacturer. After Johann Peter Melchior, German, 1742–1825, Modeler. [The Chinese Emperor](#), 1766. Hard-paste porcelain, vitreous enamel, gold, 16 1/8 × 13 × 9 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of James S. Holden in memory of his mother, Mrs. E. G. Holden. 51.59

SLIDE 18

1. Chinese. [Garden Seat](#), 16th–mid-17th century. Stoneware, celadon glaze, 13 5/8 × 12 1/4 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of the Honorable and Mrs. G. Mennen Williams. 73.332
2. Kim Yikyung (Korean, born 1935). [Ovid Jar](#), 1999. Porcelain, glaze, 13 1/2 × 16 1/4 × 11 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Dr. Tai P. Yoo, President of the Korean American Community of Metro Detroit. 1999.133
3. Kamada Koji (Japanese, born 1948). [Tenmoku Tea Bowl](#), 2014. Stoneware with Tenmoku glaze, 2 3/4 × 5 1/8 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Friends of Asian Arts and Cultures Acquisition Fund in honor of Graham W. J. Beal. 2015.70

SLIDE 25

1. Kim Yikyung (Korean, born 1935). [Ovid Jar](#), 1999. Porcelain, glaze, 13 1/2 × 16 1/4 × 11 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Dr. Tai P. Yoo, President of the Korean American Community of Metro Detroit. 1999.133
2. Tomoko Konno (Japanese, born 1967). [Creature](#), 2015. Porcelain, pigments, clear glaze, 21 3/4 × 23 1/8 × 5 3/4 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Joseph H. Parsons Fund. 2017.8

Thank you

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