

Lessons from Asian Art:
Time (and Place) will Tell

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	3.705 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%



Describe the form and possible function of this piece.

Why do you think the museum placed this piece at the entrance of a gallery that explores the themes of stillness and movement?



Samurai Helmet
no. 2017.1

Samurai Helmet, 17th century



Samurai Helmet
no. 2017.1



How would you describe tradition, rites, and filial piety based on your primary source reading?

Confucian Analects

A Discussion of Rites

Classic of Filial Piety

The Twenty-Four Exemplars of Filial Piety





1



2



3



4



5



6

How does the form of each object relate to its purpose? What does the size of an objects say about its function?



1

16th century

Jar: stoneware
Lid: wood,
lacquer

Overall
approximately:
6 × 6 × 6 in. (16
× 15 × 15 cm)



2

18th century

Lacquered wood boxes, clam
shells painted in colors and
gold

Wood Boxes
Height: 16.5 in./41.9cm
Diameter: 13.5 in./34.29cm



3

618–906 CE

Earthenware with
three-color glaze

Overall approximately:
8 × 3 × 4 inches (21 × 8
× 10 cm)



4

206 BCE–220 CE

Earthenware with
iridescent glaze

Overall: 8.75 × 8 inches
(22.2 × 20.3 cm)



5

19th – 20th century

Wood, lacquer, mother-
of-pearl, metal

Overall approximately:
12.5 × 11.75 × 11.5 in.
(32 × 30 × 29 cm)



6

12th – 13th century

Stoneware with slip
and celadon glaze

Overall: 4.75 × 9.5 × 3
in. (12.1 × 24.1 × 7.6
cm)

Identify the ways in which Chinese, Korean, and Japanese art provides a record of ongoing exchanges between generations of artists and viewers.

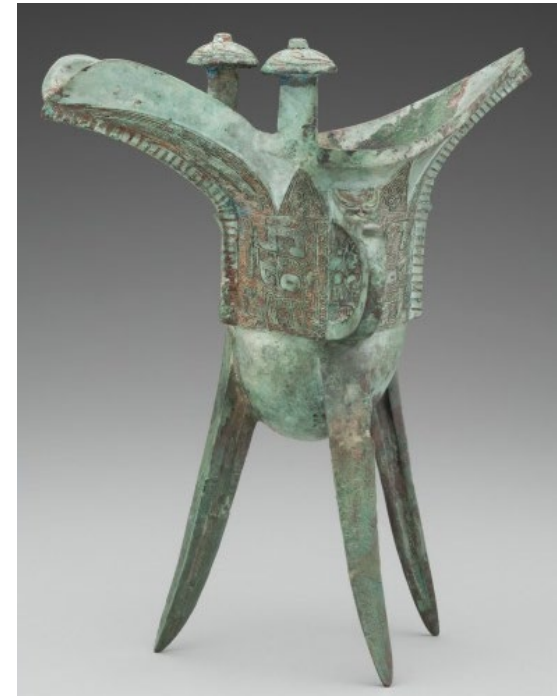
What materials were used to make these pieces? Where do you think these pieces originated? How would an artist create these objects? What was the intended function of each piece?



1

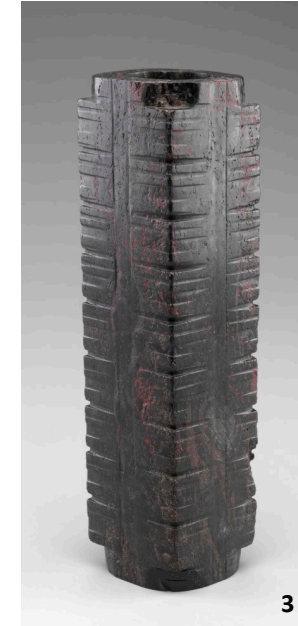


2



3

What is the difference between burials and cremations? What is the purpose of burial goods such as these objects?



What religious beliefs and practices influence these customs?
How have burial customs changed over time?

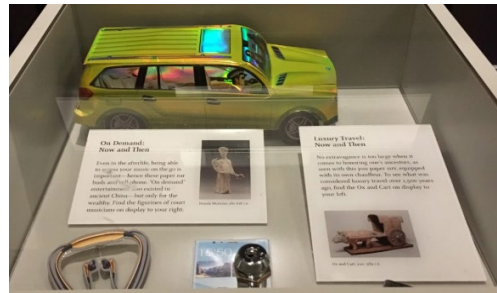
Family connections have been strengthened and reinforced through burial traditions.



How would you describe the concept of filial piety?

What is the purpose of joss paper objects?

Cultural traditions are also shared through objects that are passed down from generation to generation rather than being buried with the deceased.



Describe the geographic features of the regions where each of these pieces originated.

How do the materials used to create these pieces differ?



How might climate affect the quality?

How does an object's patina reflect chemical changes in some pieces?

What is the role of today's museum conservator in preserving and protecting these pieces?



TEAM A	TEAM B	TEAM C	TEAM D	TEAM E
<p>What challenges may have faced those who tried to hand down heirlooms from generation to generation?</p>	<p>What possible historical events threatened the ability for goods to “serve” the deceased in the afterlife?</p>	<p>Is it right for such funerary objects to become part of a museum collection— why or why not?</p>	<p>Is it better to bury objects with the deceased for them to have in the afterlife or for the family to keep and hand them down as objects of remembrance from generation to generation? Why?</p>	<p>How might technology have impacted the production of these traditional goods over time? Is that change for better or for worse?</p>
RESPONSES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES	RESPONSES



SHADOWS OF TIME

Title of Piece

Time Period

Media

Approximate Size

Formal Qualities (Descriptors)

*

*

*

Function (Known Or Possible)



1



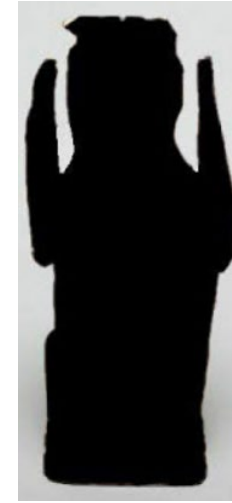
2



3



4



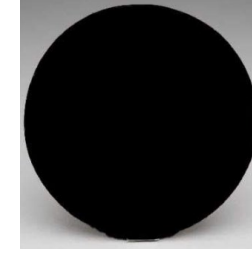
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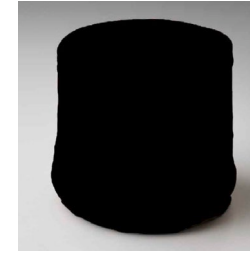
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8



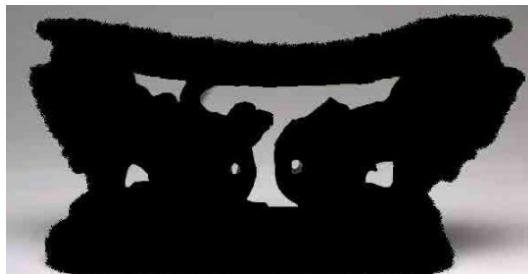
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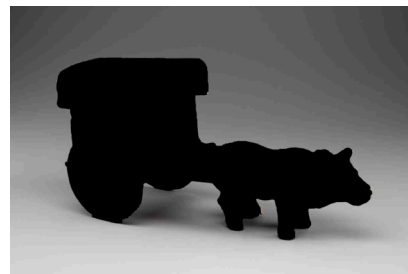
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11



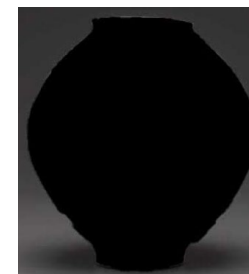
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13



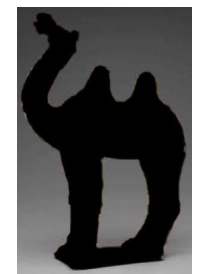
14



15



16

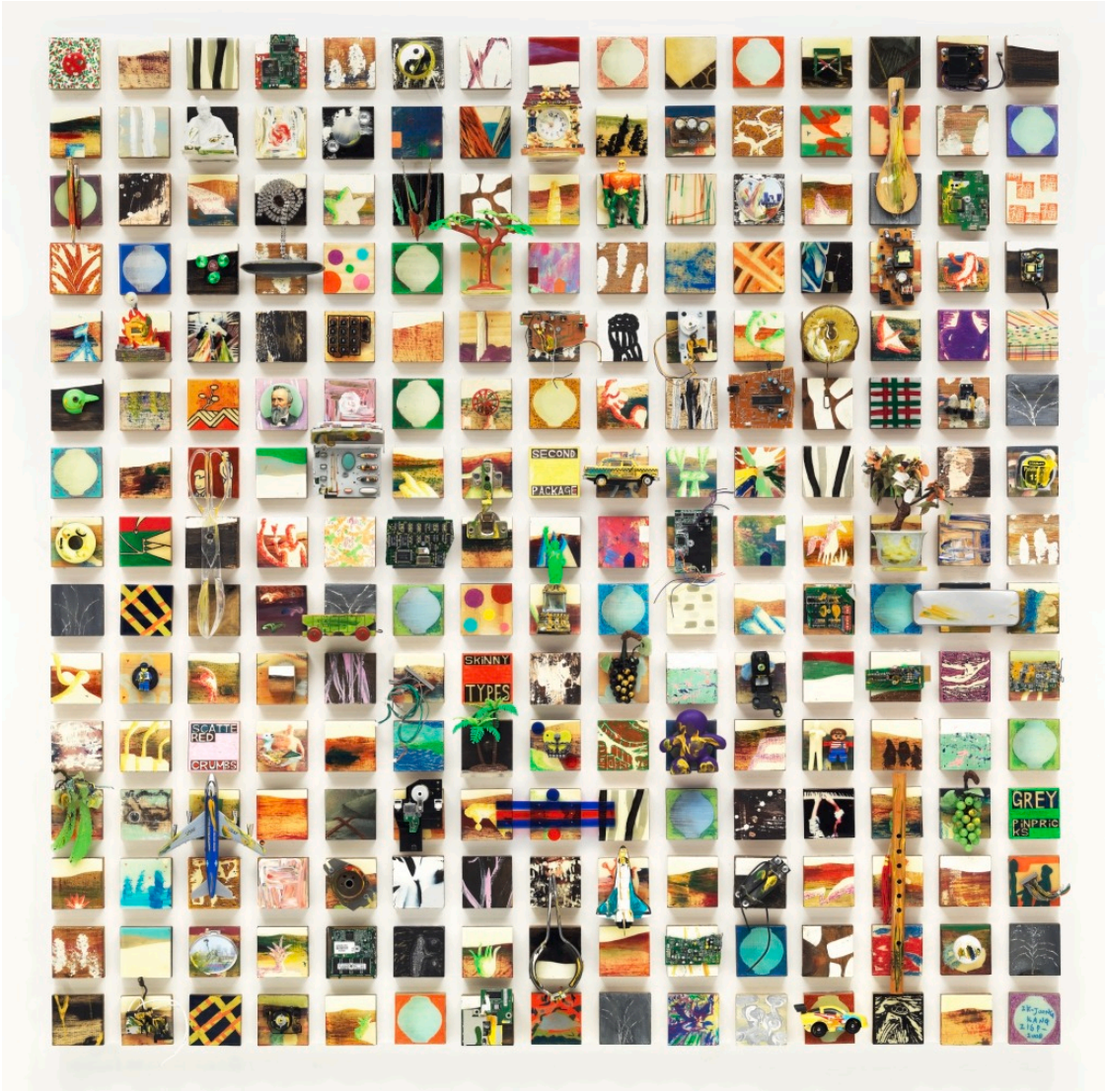


17

How are these objects a reflection of Korean culture, both past and present?



1



2

In comparing the old with the new, how does Tomoko Konno's work reflect Japanese culture today?

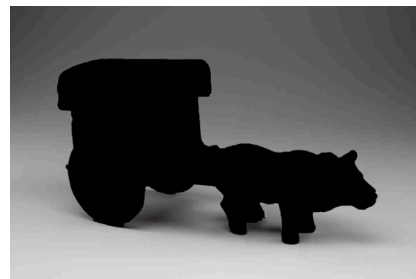
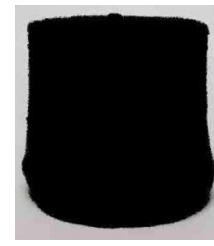
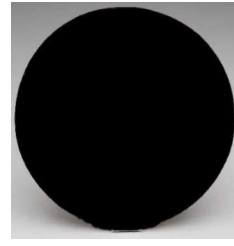
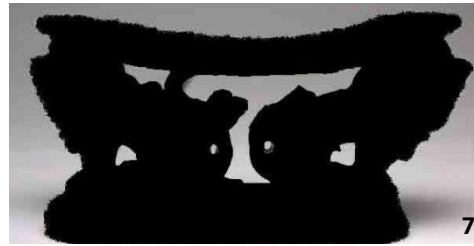
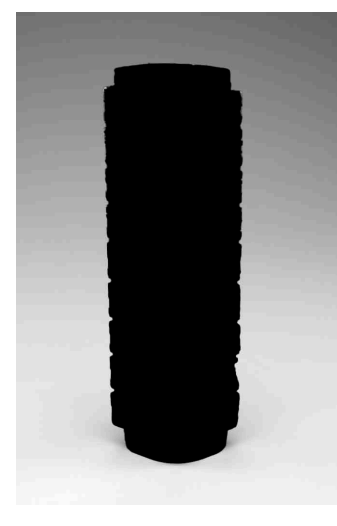
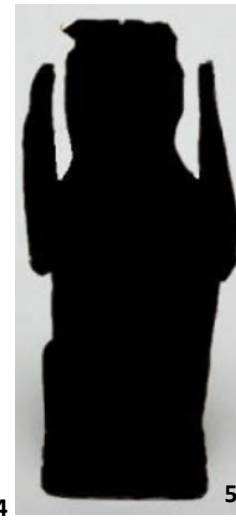
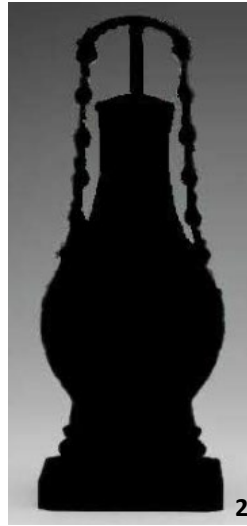


1



2

SHADOWS OF TIME



What objects from the Shadows of Time graphic organizer did you find in the museum collection?

Working in teams, use the Tick Tock graphic organizer to chronologically arrange the items you and your teammates found in the museum collection.

Answer four of the following questions after completing that chronology.

1. What do these objects tell us about the time and place in which they were used?
2. How do these works reflect the people who used them?
3. How were these objects used?
4. Which objects show continuity? In what ways are they different?
5. How do those objects relate to each other?
6. How did the functions of these objects develop and change over time and place?
7. What are the most important objects which reflect change over time in East Asia?

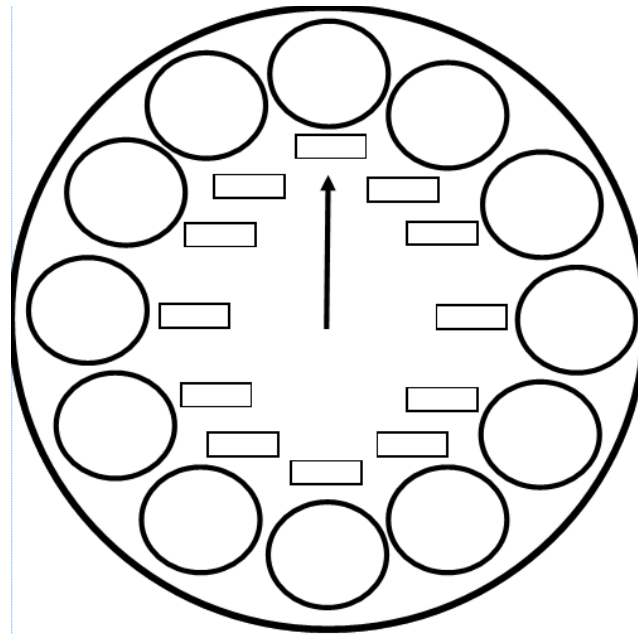


NAME: _____

TICK-TOCK

Graphic Organizer

DIRECTIONS: Working collaboratively, select twelve objects from your museum visit to place in chronological order using the clock below. Write the date of the object in the box next to the circle where you will identify, sketch or describe each object. Finally, select the one object that you feel best represents the importance of time in East Asia by drawing the final hand on the clock pointing toward the object you chose.



Select one object from the collection that you feel best represents the importance of time in an East Asian culture.

- Imagine yourself as part of that piece
- Write a one-page essay chronicling your journey through time
 - Creatively describe the following:
 - when and where you were created
 - how you were made
 - what your function has been
 - what you have seen throughout your existence
 - Consider the following:
 - the time period in which you were “born”
 - the materials with which you were made
 - where and how you were stored
 - your intended function
 - where you would have lived
 - how these factors may have affected your survival



Ritual Vessel
no. 2015.262

Be prepared to share your object stories in small groups in class.

CREDITS

SLIDE 6

1. Japanese. [Samurai Helmet](#), 17th century. Wood, lacquer, metal, fiber, 26 × 16 1/2 × 14 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Robert H. Tannahill Foundation Fund. 2017.1

SLIDE 7

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SLIDE 9

1. Japanese. [Shigaraki Ware Water Jar](#), 16th century. Jar: stoneware; lid: wood, lacquer, 6 1/4 × 6 × 6 1/16 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Ancient Art Deaccession Fund, gifts from Harold J. Quilhot, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert V. Book, Mrs. O. B. Nordstrom in memory of her parents Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wyhan, Gibbs-Williams Fund, Mrs. Byron C. Foy in memory of her father Walter P. Chrysler, by exchange. 2014.36
2. Chinese. [Central Asian Musician](#), 618–906 CE. Earthenware with three-color glaze, 8 3/4 × 3 × 3 7/8 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, City of Detroit Purchase. 53.172
3. Chinese. [Incense Burner in the Shape of the Mountain of Immortals](#), 206 BCE–220 CE. Earthenware with iridescent glaze, 8 3/4 × 8 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, City of Detroit Purchase. 41.79
4. 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
5. 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

6. Korean. [Pillow with Lions](#), 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

SLIDE 10

1. Japanese. [Shigaraki Ware Water Jar](#), 16th century. Jar: stoneware; lid: wood, lacquer, Overall: 6 1/4 × 6 × 6 1/16 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Ancient Art Deaccession Fund, gifts from Harold J. Quilhot, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert V. Book, Mrs. O. B. Nordstrom in memory of her parents Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wyhan, Gibbs-Williams Fund, Mrs. Byron C. Foy in memory of her father Walter P. Chrysler, by exchange. 2014.36
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SLIDE 11

1. Korean. [Cinerary Urn](#), 7th–8th century. Stoneware, 4 1/2 × 5 5/8 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Klaus F. Naumann. 1986.35
2. Japanese. [Haniwa](#), 6th century. Earthenware, 32 1/2 × 22 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Anonymous. 2016.82
3. Chinese. [Ritual Wine Vessel](#), 1388–1122 BCE. Copper alloy, 8 3/4 × 7 1/2 × 4 3/4 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, City of Detroit Purchase. 53.169

SLIDE 12

1. Korean. [Pedestal Stand](#), 5th century. Stoneware, 13 1/8 × 11 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Robert H. Tannahill Foundation Fund. 2015.8
2. Chinese. [Deep Footed Bowl](#), 1388–1122 BCE. Copper alloy, 8 1/2 × 6 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Allan Gerdau. 51.300
3. Chinese. [Jade Cylinder](#), 8th century BCE. Jade, 9 3/8 × 2 1/4 × 2 1/4 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of anonymous donor. 68.261
4. 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

SLIDE 13

1. Japanese. [Samurai Helmet](#), 17th century. Wood, lacquer, metal, fiber, 26 × 16 1/2 × 14 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Robert H. Tannahill Foundation Fund. 2017.1
2. Joss Paper Objects in DIA Discovery Drawers. Detroit Institute of Arts, Asia Galleries.

3. Joss Paper Objects in DIA Discovery Drawers. Detroit Institute of Arts, Asia Galleries.
4. Korean. [Box with 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
5. 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

SLIDE 14

1. Chinese. [Plaque in the Form of Taotie](#), 1200–1000 BCE. Copper alloy with turquoise inlay, 2 3/4 × 2 3/4 × 3 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, City of Detroit Purchase. 53.171
2. 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
3. Chinese. [Deep Footed Bowl](#), 1388–1122 BCE. Copper alloy, 8 1/2 × 6 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Allan Gerdau. 51.300
4. Chinese. [Female Musician](#), 581–618 CE. Earthenware with cream-colored glaze, 7 5/8 × 2 1/4 × 2 3/8 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Ton-Ying and Co. 27.189
5. Korean. [Pillow with Lions](#), 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



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SLIDE 16

1. Japanese. [Samurai Helmet](#), 17th century. Wood, lacquer, metal, fiber, 26 × 16 1/2 × 14 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Robert H. Tannahill Foundation Fund. 2017.1
2. Chinese. [Ritual Vessel](#), 6th–5th century BCE. Copper alloy, Overall: 12 × 7 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Beverly Payne Acquisition Fund for Chinese Art. 2015.262
3. 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
4. Chinese. [Lady with Phoenix Headdress](#), 618–906 CE. Earthenware with three-color glaze, 17 1/2 × 4 × 3 5/8 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, City of Detroit Purchase. 29.342
5. 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
6. Chinese. [Jade Cylinder](#), 8th century BCE. Jade, 9 3/8 × 2 1/4 × 2 1/4 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of anonymous donor. 68.261
7. Chinese. [Incense Burner in the Shape of the Mountain of Immortals](#), 206 BCE–220 CE. Earthenware with iridescent glaze, 8 3/4 × 8 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, City of Detroit Purchase. 41.79
8. Korean. [Cinerary Urn](#), 7th–8th century. Stoneware, 4 1/2 × 5 5/8 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Klaus F. Naumann. 1986.35
9. Chinese. [Mirror with Dragons and Tigers](#), ca. 206 BCE. Copper alloy, 5/8 × 7 3/8 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Friends of Asian Arts and Cultures Acquisition Fund. 2015.22
10. Japanese. [Shigaraki Ware Water Jar](#), 16th century. Jar: stoneware; lid: wood, lacquer, Overall: 6 1/4 × 6 × 6 1/16 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Ancient Art Deaccession Fund, gifts from Harold J. Quilhot, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert V. Book, Mrs. O. B. Nordstrom in memory of her parents Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wyhan, Gibbs-Williams Fund, Mrs. Byron C. Foy in memory of her father Walter P. Chrysler, by exchange. 2014.36
11. Korean. [Pedestal Stand](#), 5th century. Stoneware, 13 1/8 × 11 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Robert H. Tannahill Foundation Fund. 2015.8
12. Korean. [Pillow with Lions](#), 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
13. 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
14. Chinese. [Deep Footed Bowl](#), 1388–1122 BCE. Copper alloy, 8 1/2 × 6 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Allan Gerdau. 51.300
15. 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
16. Chinese. [Jade Disc \(Huan\)](#), 3000–771 BCE. Jade, 1/8 × 3 3/4 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of anonymous donor. 68.259
17. Chinese. [Camel](#), 618–906 CE. Earthenware with three-color glaze, 22 × 6 1/8 × 15 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of C. T. Loo. 22.22

CREDITS

SLIDE 17

1. 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
2. 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

SLIDE 18

1. Japanese. [Samurai Helmet](#), 17th century. Wood, lacquer, metal, fiber, 26 × 16 1/2 × 14 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Robert H. Tannahill Foundation Fund. 2017.1
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

SLIDE 19

1. Japanese. [Samurai Helmet](#), 17th century. Wood, lacquer, metal, fiber, 26 × 16 1/2 × 14 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Robert H. Tannahill Foundation Fund. 2017.1
2. Chinese. [Ritual Vessel](#), 6th–5th century BCE. Copper alloy, Overall: 12 × 7 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Beverly Payne Acquisition Fund for Chinese Art. 2015.262
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15. 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
16. Chinese. [Jade Disc \(Huan\)](#), 3000–771 BCE. Jade, 1/8 × 3 3/4 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of anonymous donor. 68.259
17. Chinese. [Camel](#), 618–906 CE. Earthenware with three-color glaze, 22 × 6 1/8 × 15 1/2 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of C. T. Loo. 22.22

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Chinese. [Ritual Vessel](#), 6th–5th century BCE. Copper alloy, Overall: 12 × 7 inches. Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum Purchase, Beverly Payne Acquisition Fund for Chinese Art. 2015.262



Thank you

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