Look at the red table or throne at the front of the gallery:

— Who did this object belong to? Look at the dragons for a clue.
— What animals can you find? Draw two of your favourites.
— What do these animals symbolise?
— If you were an animal, what would you be and why?
— Draw your animal symbol below.
Select one of the five materials or processes: ceramic, jade, silk, lacquer or cloisonné:

— Find an object made of the material you have chosen.
— Draw one part of the object in as much detail as you can.
— Use three words to describe it; how it might feel, sound, taste, or smell.
— What is it used for – tools, boxes, cups, clothes, furniture or something else?
— Explore the gallery. In what other ways has this material been used?
Look at the dragon robes at the front of the gallery:

The robes show dragons rising out of the water and hitting clouds, making rain, which helps crops grow and provides food. It symbolises the Emperor’s care for his subjects.

— Find the following symbols or patterns on the robes: dragons, clouds, mountains, waves and pearls. Make a sketch of each one.
— List three things an English king or queen would wear to show their status. Do they have their own patterns or symbols?