

## Discovery session: Discovering Materials

*A gallery based session led by V&A museum educators*



Bronze figure of a Buddhist lion, 15th to 16th century, Chinese  
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### Galleries Visited:

China Gallery – room 44

### Age Group:

KS 1 & 2

### Summary:

From wood to stone, metal to ceramics this session explores some of the materials used by artists and designers to create incredible objects. Pupils will have the chance to explore the properties and qualities of different materials, to handle a range of different materials and to link them to objects on display in the China gallery. The session allows the opportunity to develop language and communication skills through describing the properties of different materials and their uses. Pupils are then given a range of making materials to create their own designs in response to the objects they have seen in the

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gallery. KS1 pupils make a gift to give to one of the Chinese Emperor's important guests, while KS2 are given the challenge to design a new throne for the Emperor.

### National Curriculum Links:

This session will contribute to learning in the following areas:

#### KS1 Art & Design

- To use a range of materials creatively to design and make products

#### KS1 Design & Technology

- Select from and use a wide range of materials and components, including construction materials, textiles and ingredients, according to their characteristics

#### KS1 Science

- distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made
- identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock
- describe the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials
- compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties.

### Follow up activities:

Use sticky notes to label objects around the classroom according to what material they are made of. Create a tally chart listing the different materials – which material is most commonly found in your classroom?

Have a go at re-making the designs you made at the Museum in a different materials. How do they compare? Which material do you think works best?

### Booking Information:

Available: Monday-Friday

Cost: FREE

Timing: 1 hour beginning at 10.30, 11.45 & 13.00

Capacity: Maximum 30 students per session

**Book now: 020 7942 2000**