Discovery session: Discovering Materials

A gallery based session led by V&A museum educators

![Dish, Unknown 1400 - 1450 © Victoria and Albert Museum, London](image)

**Gallery Visited:**
China gallery – room 44, Level 0

**Key Stage:**
KS1 & KS2

**Topics and themes:**
Art and Design and Science

**Summary:**
From wood to marble, metal to ceramics this session explores some of the materials used by artists and designers to create incredible objects. The pupils will have the chance to explore the properties and qualities of different materials and respond to museum objects through experimentation and play. Pupils will have the chance to handle a range of different materials, compare and contrast their properties and 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 gallery. KS1 pupils get to 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:**

Art & Design

- to use a range of materials creatively to design and make products
- to use drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share their ideas, experiences and imagination
- learn about the work of a range of artists, craft makers and designers, describing the differences and similarities between different practices and disciplines, and making links to their own work.

Science

- distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made
- identify and name a variety of everyday materials
- compare and group together a variety of everyday materials based on their simple physical properties.

**Follow up activities:**
Have a go at re-making the designs you made at the Museum in a different material. How to they compare?

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