

Elemental

Children's trail



Asian
art

Feathery phoenix

In Chinese mythology, the phoenix is a magical bird that lives forever. It has come to symbolise an empress, while the dragon is a symbol of the emperor. When the two are balanced, everything is in order.

Notice the pointy bamboo leaves and the poem at the top left of the scroll.



Write your own poem about this feathery phoenix. Start each line with the letters of the word 'phoenix'.

P
H
O
E
N
I
X

We acknowledge the Gadigal of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of the Country on which the Art Gallery of New South Wales stands.

Wang Xu *Red phoenix* 1800s, Art Gallery of New South Wales, purchased 1939

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This three-legged censer was used to burn incense to perfume the air and add fragrance to a room. How many holes can you see to let the aromatic smoke escape?

Look closely at the surface decoration and patterns. What animals have been used to embellish the censer?



Aromatic animals

What animal would you place on top of a censer? Draw your idea here.

At home, use plasticine or modelling clay to create a model of your animal.

Cover and this page: Japan, Meiji period (1868–1912)
Satsuma ware three-legged incense burner 1900s,
Art Gallery of New South Wales, purchased 1880



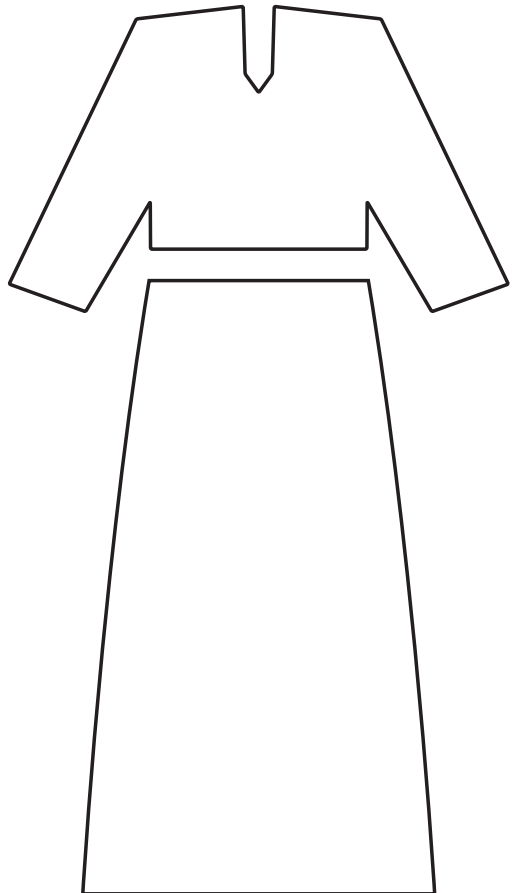
Fit for a queen

This brightly coloured choli from India could have been worn by a queen long ago, and paired with a skirt or sari.

Look closely at the repeating patterns on the embroidered fabric. What shapes can you see?

At home, find out more about Indian cholis and saris and create your own designs.

Add patterns to this choli and skirt so it's fit for a queen.





Draw yourself dancing
by a river.

This painting from India shows the Hindu god Krishna playing a flute. Four *gopis*, or milkmaids, dance around him while Madhu, a demon, watches on.

Imagine the sounds you would hear if you stepped into this scene. What dance moves could you do?

At home, listen to different types of music, dress up and dance.

Just dance

India, Madhya Pradesh *Krishna fluting for the gopis while the demon Madhu sits on the riverbank* c1690, Art Gallery of New South Wales, gift of Dr Jim Masselos 2021

Fantastic fox

This fox mask was created to be worn in a theatre production. In Japanese folklore, foxes are portrayed as magical creatures with special powers and superb vision.

Describe the fox's facial features and expression.
How do you think it is feeling?



Imagine that your pet or favourite animal has superpowers. Design a performance mask inspired by your animal.

At home, make a mask out of card or paper and perform a magical story for your family.



The Buddha was a prince who gave up his riches to search for peace and enlightenment. In this colourful painting, Phaptawan Suwannakudt has illustrated 14 stories about the Buddha.

At home, create a large artwork to tell stories about key moments from your life.

Look closely at the six panels. Tick everything you can spot:

- a mythical snake
- a rabbit
- a man with a fish tail
- a big cat with blue fur
- an elephant
- someone being held upside down

How many of these things can you find? Write the number below.

- ___ buildings
- ___ big cats
- ___ people with pointy blue hats
- ___ white horses
- ___ flags
- ___ gold crowns

This model of a watchtower is nearly 2000 years old and made of clay. It is based on a type of wooden tower built in China a long time ago to protect the homes of powerful people.

How many levels or storeys can you count? Imagine being one of the guards up high. How would you feel?



Towering tall

Draw a new storey for this watchtower.

At home, make your own tower out of cardboard boxes, tubes and paper then decorate it.