

Enquiry Grid 7

Craftsmen in ancient China

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Chapter/s and section/s used: Crafts and Artisans: Story, Explore and Challenge.

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Individual project: Introduce the activity by defining what are trades and craftsmen. Ask pupils to look at the Crafts and Artisans section and try to find out what sort of tools and skills the craftsmen would need. After they have recorded their information on the enquiry grid, ask them to present what they learnt in the form of a poster detailing the different crafts or the processes of making one of the artefacts.

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Class project: Introduce the activity by defining what are trades and craftsmen. Show pupils photographs of objects from ancient China. Brainstorm children's ideas about the artefacts and what they were made from and how they were made. Divide children into small groups, each given a different type of artefact (some in bronze, jade, ceramics).

Discuss the people who are involved in crafts. Ask pupils to think about the training that they need, the materials that they work with, the tools they use and the quality of the work that they produce. Discuss what we can learn about craftsmen from the evidence that has survived.

What kind of tools would they have used? What sort of materials have they used? Would these skills have been difficult to learn? Would their workshops have to be well organised? Were these craftsmen important people to the community?

What can we learn about ancient Chinese trades and crafts from looking at the objects that they made?

Background Information:

None available for this activity.

Craftsmen

Craftsman	What did he make?	What tools did he use?
