

# Brief Tour Planning Worksheet for Group Tour

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**INTRODUCTION:** Provide a warm welcome to visitors, introduce yourself, give a general introduction to the museum, and discuss museum rules. Then clearly state the theme and goals of the tour and give a short preview of what will be learned/discussed.

**Theme Statement:** Welcome to our tour called Ancient Chinese Art: Trendsetting Approaches, Materials, and Techniques. Many Chinese innovations are still part of our daily life; including porcelain, the wheelbarrow, the chain suspension bridge, silk and paper. In ancient China, the culture strived to create, refine, and master the use of materials and tools that set trends in art. Today we are going to explore together seven objects from Mia's collection, as we marvel at the cutting edge creations that are uniquely Chinese.

**ORGANIZATION:** (Order your 6-8 objects into a logical tour route, both spatially and thematically. Keep in mind the overall theme and think about connections between objects that will facilitate transitions.)

1. Cosmetic Case, 2001.69.2.1a,b 100 BCE, Lacquered wood, G215
2. Cong 50.46.302 and Cicada, 50.46.239 1100s BCE– 220 CE, Jade, G215
3. Ritual Bell bo, 97.81, 6<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE, Bronze, G215
4. Lokapala Guardian King, 2003.242.1.1 (1.2) Late 7<sup>th</sup> – early 8<sup>th</sup> century, Earthenware, G207
5. Sarcophagus of Prince Yuan Mi, 46.23.1a-d, 524, Black Limestone, G208
6. Visiting a Recluse with a Qin, 2013.34.1, 13<sup>th</sup> century, Silk, G203
7. Ink Tablet in the form of a Turtle, 32.54.4a,b, 1<sup>st</sup> century, Earthenware, G201

*Alternate #1: Cart with Ox and Farmer, 2002.217.7a-m, 1<sup>st</sup> century, Bronze, G215*

*Alternate #2: Funerary Model of Pavilion, 88.77.1, 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE – 1<sup>st</sup> century, Earthenware, G215*

**Transitions:** (1-2 sentences that make a smooth transition between one object and the next, allowing your audience to make connections and follow the tour more easily.)

*Transition between 1 and 2:*

Lacquer ware like this cosmetic case was considered precious, due to its elegance and sophisticated production. We'll now move right around the corner to explore some highly prized jade objects; another material mastered by Chinese artisans and still highly valued today.

*Transition between 2 and 3:*

So far we have seen Chinese mastery in making delicate lacquerware and precious jade objects. Now let's hear about another ancient Chinese trendsetting technique—how to cast molten bronze!

*Transition between 3 and 4:*

We have just seen a superbly crafted bell from the 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE, setting a trend in large scale bronze casting not to be realized in Europe for another 1500 years. Now we will see a pair of figures that set a trend by combining two art forms.

*Transition between 4 and 5:*

So this pair of guardian figures set a trend by combining painting and sculpture in one form. As we continue our tour of ancient Chinese art, we will see an innovative sculpting technique used on a 5th century sarcophagus of a powerful prince.

*Transition between 5 and 6:*

The Sarcophagus of Prince Cheng Ching uses overlap to suggest depth and move our eyes up vertically. Our next object is an inked landscape which uses the same overlap and parallel perspective centuries later, but its innovation lies in the silken material used for the painting.

*Transition between 6 and 7:*

So we have learned how the Chinese developed the technique to paint with ink on silk, and next we will view a treasured tortoise used to prepare ink for paintings—but this tortoise has some very innovative symbols on its shell. Let's go explore our last trendsetting object.

*Transition between 7 and 8:* NO 8<sup>th</sup> OBJECT

**CONCLUSION:** Use your conclusion to summarize the key points of your tour/theme and recall a few of the objects seen. Also give your audience ideas for future learning, identify any new skills the group may have learned on the tour that can be applied in other learning situations/museum experiences, and encourage them to return for further exploration.

Throughout this tour, we have seen how Chinese artists have demonstrated, across

the centuries, how an object of art, through superb craftsmanship and design, can move a culture forward in remarkable ways. We thought about the uses of the lacquer cosmetic case and marveled at the ingenuity of the ritual bell. We discovered that the Chinese used molds to mass produce tomb figures, while the Sarcophagus was a tool to both tell stories of filial piety as well as demonstrate an early form of landscape, so important to the Chinese culture. While what we viewed today was considered trendsetting from ancient times, I invite you to do some of your own reflecting as you consider what artistic techniques used today might be looked upon by future generations as having been “on the cutting edge.” Thank you for joining us today and please return to Mia. Remember: it is always free!