

Family Art Time
Chinese Vase

Vase
Chinese, ca. 1662-1722
Jingdezhen, Jiangxi province, China, Asia
Porcelain with overglaze enamels
Gift of Lenora and Walter F. Brown. 92.25.50

Look-

- Take a close look at this Chinese Vase. What elements of nature do you see? Can you find animals and people depicted? Can you find the phoenix? Research the meaning of the phoenix in Chinese culture.
- Imagine you are in a garden full of flowers in the springtime. What do you smell? What colors do you see?
- Think about your favorite flowers and animals. Which ones would you put on a vase?

Think-

The vase we see here comes from the Jiangxi province of China during the Kangxi period. Many different subjects are featured on this vase such as birds, flowers, scholars, and gardens. These are all common subjects and designs found on Chinese porcelain objects with each having a significant meaning. Porcelain is made from kaolin, which is a white clay. When fired at a high temperature it becomes a glass-like ceramic.

Make-

You can make your own free-standing decorative paper vase featuring any subjects and designs that are significant to you and your family at home.



Front view



Back view



What You Will Need:

- 2 - 8.5" x 11" Paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Markers
- Crayons
- Tape or glue
- Clean recycled aluminum can

How To Do This Activity



1. Gather the supplies you will need to complete this activity.



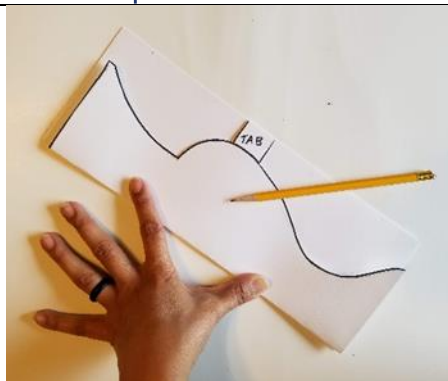
2. Fold both papers in half, length wise.



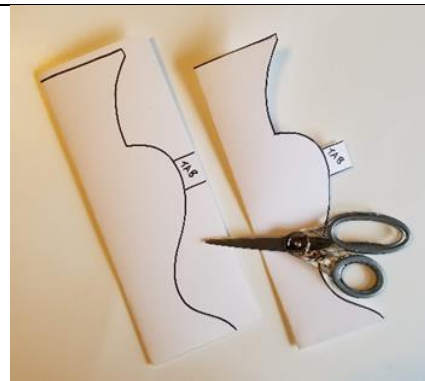
3. With your pencil, draw the outline of a vase on one of the folded sheets of paper. Be sure to include a small square for the tab.



4. Keeping the paper folded, cut along the line you drew with scissors to create symmetry.



5. Place the cut out over the remaining folded paper. Using your pencil, trace the design so both sides of your vase will match.



6. Cut along the line you traced with scissors. Be sure to leave the tabs attached to both sides of the vase.



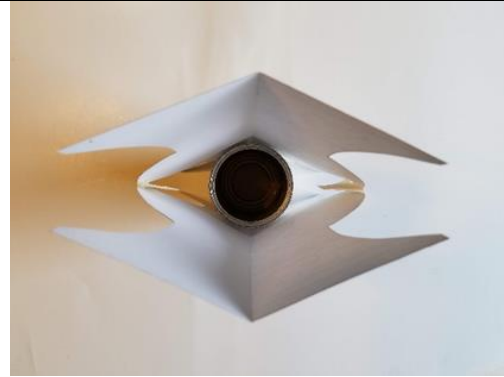
7. Unfold both sides of your vase. Using your pencil, markers, and crayons, draw designs on the vase.



8. Designs can tell a story or feature fun subjects such as flowers.



9. Fold the tabs on both sides of the vase inward and tape them together.



10. Sit the paper vase with taped tabs over the clean recycled aluminum can. The can will help keep the vase standing and provide a space to hold flowers.

Connect-

We suggest you read the Chinese myth *Ling-Li and the Phoenix Fairy: A Chinese Folktale* by Ellin Greene, Zong-Zhou Wang (Illustrator). This story gives insight into *Taoism*- a Chinese philosophy that encourages humility. What kinds of animals would your flowers on your vase transform into if they could?

Share with us –

Have fun and share your creations with us!



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