

# NATURE IN ASIAN AND PACIFIC ART

## ARTMAKING ACTIVITY - 4 TREASURES CALLIGRAPHY

### CORRESPONDING VIDEO

Nature plays a big role in Asian and Pacific Art. East Asian **scroll paintings** are an example of artwork that showcases nature's significance to the culture. The materials used to create them are also an example of how natural resources are utilized for art. In this video lesson you will learn about four traditional tools for scroll painting and **calligraphy**, which is the artistic writing of Chinese characters. Then you will create your own scroll painting.



Lin Yen-chuan  
Painting of a cat and a pair of butterflies in a floral setting.  
China  
ink; silk  
image: 37 3/4 in x 10 1/4 in; overall: 63 in x 16 1/2 in  
Gift of Dr. James Soong  
1997.85.1

Circular shaped Inkstone with Lid  
China, 20th C.  
stone  
Overall: 1.25" H x 4.75" W; A: 0.375" H x 4.75" W;  
B: 0.75" H x 4.75" D  
Gift of Mr. Harvey W. House  
1976.35.176AB



Ink stick with design of 5-toed dragon and phoenix in raised relief  
China, 20th C.  
ink; gold pigment  
4" H x .875" W x .5" D  
Gift of Miss Helen Perkins  
1978.22.66

Black Laquer Brush with Gold Floral Filigree Design  
Japan, Edo period (1603-1868 AD)  
wood; lacque; hair  
3.25" H x 1.25" DIA  
Gift of Miss Margaret Hill  
1973.18.18

## MATERIALS

Writing instrument: brush pen (preferred), pencil, marker, or crayon., few sheets of paper, glue stick or tape, wooden dowel (can be substituted with a stick/branch found outside, a straw, chopsticks, or bbq skewers)

## VOCABULARY

**Calligraphy** - the artistic writing of Chinese characters

**Landscape** - picture of the outdoors

**Scroll painting** - a painting on a scroll that can be rolled up; an artform associate with East Asia

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What natural elements did you include in your landscape?
- Imagine if you lived somewhere else, like near an ocean or forest. How would your landscape drawing change? Would you still have the same animals, insects, or plants?
- Think of other natural materials. What else can you use to create art?

## STANDARDS

### **National Core Visual Arts Standards**

3-5 - VA:Cr1.1.5a - Combine ideas to generate an innovative idea for artmaking.  
3-5 - VA:Cr2.2.5a - Demonstrate quality craftsmanship through care for and use of materials, tools, and equipment.

### **English–Language Arts Content Standards for California Public Schools**

Writing Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)

2.2 - Write descriptions that use concrete sensory details to present and support unified impressions of people, places, things, or experiences.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Nature in Chinese Culture](#)
- [Chinese Handscrolls](#)