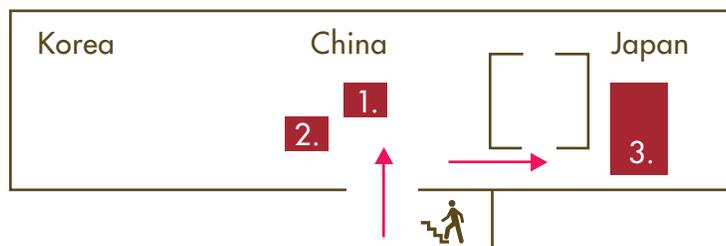


# China & Japan Level 1



Sit your students in front of the statue and ask the following Q questions:



## 1. Buddhist Traditions

? This statue is over 900 years old; he is a “Luohan” which means “Role model”. He wears a patch-work robe; has taken off his heavy gold earrings and given away his wealth to help him find enlightenment, that which is most important in life. Money and power are not the most important things.

Q What are the most important things in life? Family, friends, love, peace, forgiveness, kindness, etc.

? Look closely at his clothing, the expression on his face and the way he is sitting.

Q Why does he appear both peaceful and strong while he is meditating? His clothes look comfortable, simple and loose fitting, his eyes are almost closed and he has a confident smile, he is sitting with his back straight and strong but his arms look relaxed and one leg is resting on the ground. ?

Q How do you sit so that you are comfortable when you are thinking? Would the position show you are strong?

Many answers.

? To attain enlightenment in Buddhism, one must put an end to desire and suffering. To end desire you might give up things you want like your beautiful hair and your nice clothes as this monk did.

Sit students in front of the bell:

## 2. Buddhist Traditions

? Look at the large bronze bell. It comes from a Buddhist temple built almost 500 years ago. Originally it would have been shiny, almost like gold, but the copper in bronze gets dark and turns green over time like a penny.

Q How is the bell decorated? What patterns, shapes and symbols do you see? Patterns of rectangles, Chinese writing (from Buddhist religious texts) and a double-headed dragon on top (a symbol of good fortune).

? The patterns of rectangles are “trigrams” and represent a method of fortune-telling. Learning your fortune depends on the patterns of full and broken length lines. If all lengths are unbroken it is likened to a sign of creativity.

? Look at the cracks on the sides of the bell, this bell does not have a “clapper” that hangs inside; the cracks are a clue for how to make it ring.

Q How is the bell rung and for what purpose? It is struck from the outside with a mallet or a suspended beam. It wakes up the gods and calls the Buddhist people to worship.



Sit your students in front of the armour:

## 3. Way of the Warrior

? Look at the armour worn by the Samurai (Japanese soldiers). The strips of iron are painted with lacquer to prevent rust; this turns the metal a dark brown colour.

Q Why is the protective iron cut into strips and how is it held together? Small pieces of iron allow for easy and complete movement in battle; the colourful silk, embroidery and leather hold it together.

? Look closely at the helmet and face mask. Both provide protection but also hide the samurai's identity.

Q What part of the armour provides a symbol of the samurai's identity? The crest of their clan is shown on their helmet.

? Samurai follow the code of “Bushido” which stresses loyalty, mastery of martial arts, and honour unto death. They must represent the honour of their clan and ancestors, not just their own. The face mask, however, shows their individual self-expression, they can be scary, stunning, humorous, intimidating and powerful. ?

Q What type of facial expression would you have on your mask, and why? Many answers.

? A samurai usually carried two swords. The shorter “Wakizashi” was for cutting off enemy's head or ritual suicide. The longer “Katana” was for battle. ?

- ? Look in the gallery
- Q Ask Students Questions
- ? Facts of Great Magnitude
- ? Student Activity Guide Connection