

# Information: Taught gallery session Age of Exploration and Voyages of Discovery History: KS3,4 &5

# ASHMOLEAN

Subject Area:  
History

Length of session:  
1 hour

Maximum group size:  
30 pupils

## Session outline

The Ashmolean Museum contains a fascinating range of objects which illustrate the explosion of trade across continents following the opening up of trade routes in the Age of Exploration.

Students will explore how and why European trade with the Far East expanded from the 1500s onwards.

They will handle modern examples of the types of objects Europeans bought and learn about where these products came from. They will consider the wider consequences of trading between West and East.

Students will then work with iPads to select and photograph objects from the collections to create their own virtual drawing room of fashionable objects traded from East to West.

Using a gallery trail, they will explore the ideas and stories behind key objects in more detail.

## To book contact:

Education Department  
Ashmolean Museum  
Beaumont Street  
Oxford OX1 2PH  
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E. education.service@ashmus.ox.ac.uk

## Learning Outcomes

- Awareness that from the 1500s onwards there was a huge expansion of trade between Europe and the Far East due to the opening up of new sea routes.
- Knowledge and understanding of what was traded and where it came from and what motivated voyages of exploration.
- Consider how trading encouraged cross cultural contact and enabled the spread of new materials, crafts, technologies, designs, social habits and religion.
- Understanding of how Western society has drawn on and been influenced by aspects of Far Eastern cultures.

Also available:  
INSET and teacher training

Online resources  
[www.ashmolean.org/learning-resources](http://www.ashmolean.org/learning-resources)

'The Age of Exploration session was well organised and relevant to the exam specification. Our pupils were constantly involved in a variety of meaningful tasks and relished the chance to see artefacts traded in the reign of Elizabeth I.'

History teacher, Cedars Academy, Birstall

