

A Variety of Transitions

Include a variety of transitions in your tour to keep it interesting and engaging to visitors. These examples are from the *Ancient Arts of China* gallery unless otherwise noted.

1. Provocative Statements

- Let me show you a group of objects whose use or purpose is a mystery. (*First Californians*)
- The next carving weighs 6.5 lbs., but started out as a crystal weighing 250 lbs. (*Gemstone Carvings*)

2. Summaries

- The robes of Chinese court officials were known for their exquisite embroidery. Let's look at this next piece with embroidery so fine that it looks like a painting.
- We have seen several examples of bronze made into bells, vessels, and mirrors. Let's look at an example of bronze used in warfare.

3. Questions

- How do you suppose traders on the Silk Road packed porcelain so it would not break?
- When we look at this next piece of pottery, why do you think only the top half was decorated?

4. Directives

- Let's take two minutes to explore this gallery and find one painting that is a self-portrait. (*California Bounty*)
- When you look at both sides of the carved ivory tusk, can you tell how each side is different?

5. Contrasts

- Before we enter the gallery, let's look at these two statues of Fu Dogs or Guardian Lions. Which one is male and which one is female? How can you tell?
- We've seen a saddle used by a vaquero to herd cattle. Let's look at a saddle used by ladies and see how it is designed differently. (*Missions & Ranchos*)

6. Imagination

- Imagine you can hear sounds coming from this landscape painting. What would you hear?
- Imagine you are writing a poem (or paying your bills) while seated at this desk. Which calligraphy brush would you use and why?

7. Previous Statements or Questions

- The Chinese played a strategy game that has confounded computers – unlike the West's game of chess where the computer won! See if you can find evidence of a game being played on this carved ivory tusk.
- We learned that the secret to making silk was kept within China's boundaries under penalty of death. However, a Chinese princess wearing this fancy headdress could have smuggled the mulberry tree seeds and silk worm eggs in her hat. This tale from Khotan tells her story.