

Floor 1

Gallery 33: Mughal India

From the 1600s trade between Europe and India increased. The Dutch, Portuguese and English all set up trading companies and sent men out to the Far East to work for them.

> Can you find some of these things Europeans bought from India? Tick when you find them:

- a carpet
- a mother of pearl bowl
- ivory chess pieces
- cashmere* gloves



* The word 'cashmere' comes from the name of the Indian province where it was made, Kashmir.

> Why do you think these items may have appealed to Europeans?



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Gallery 33: Mughal India

Ivory cabinet

This cabinet is carved from ivory and was made in India. It shows scenes that European traders visiting India may have seen.

> Look carefully at this cabinet and see if you can spot:

- Dutch ships anchored in the port of Ceylon
- Dutch traders arriving amongst the huts and palms of Ceylon
- Six wild elephants being hunted
- European soldiers watching an elephant hunt



> Who do you think might have bought this cabinet? Why?

From East to West

Floor 1

Gallery 33: Mughal India

Game pieces



This chesspiece is carved from ivory and was made in India in the 1800s. Chess is an old Indian game.

> Do you think this chess set was made for Europeans or Indians?
(CLUE: Look carefully at the King. Does he look Indian or European?)



> Can you find these Chaupar counters? What European boardgame did they inspire?

Floor 2

Gallery 35: West meets East

During the 1700s and 1800s it became fashionable for wealthy Europeans to furnish their homes with things from the Far East.

> Look round the gallery and find five different items that Europeans bought from the Far East.

1. lacquer chairs
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

> Find the Chinese coromandel screen and sketch a detail from it in the space provided.

> How did these screens get the name 'coromandel'?



Floor 2

Gallery 35: West meets East

Chintz

Chintz was imported from India and was a fashionable home decoration. The word 'chintz' comes from the North Indian word 'chint' meaning 'to sprinkle'.

> Look carefully at this piece of chintz and see if you can spot:

- birds
- a peacock
- fish
- a snake
- squirrels



> How do you think the owner of this chintz might have used or displayed it? Why?

Floor 2

Gallery 35: West meets East

Tea jars



These jars were used to store tea imported from China. Although tea has been drunk in China for thousands of years, it has only been popular in Europe since the 1700s.

> Why do you think people might have wanted a fancy jar to store their tea in?

> What do you think the labels on these tea jars might mean?

Floor 2

Gallery 35: West meets East

Oxford plate

Europeans were impressed by porcelain (a type of ceramic) made in China. As well as buying lots of Chinese and Japanese porcelain, they also had things made using their own designs.



> Which Oxford garden does this plate show?

> Can you work out why the central image is in black and white?
(CLUE: how would somebody in China know what Oxford was like?)

> If you were having a plate designed for you, what would you ask for? Sketch your design below.



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