

A GOLDEN AGE
of CHINA
QIANLONG EMPEROR, 1736–1795

盛世乾隆



Chinese Portrait of Emperor Qianlong in ceremonial robe 清人画弘历朝服像轴 (detail) Qing dynasty, Qianlong period 1736–1795 / coloured ink on silk / 242.2 x 179.0 cm (image) The Palace Museum, Beijing

27 MARCH –
21 JUNE 2015

FIND OUT MORE

THE FORBIDDEN CITY

- On a map of China locate the city of Beijing.
- Use Google Maps to find a satellite view of the Forbidden City today.

SYMBOLISM

- Find out the meaning of the following symbols which feature on works in the exhibition.
 - Dragon
 - Bat
 - Peach
 - Lotus
 - Plum blossom
 - Pine tree
- Why was the colour yellow reserved for the Imperial family?
- What is *ruyi* and what do they symbolise?

MATERIALS

- What is lacquer? What is it used for in the decorative arts?
- The Qianlong Emperor loved jade. Why is jade considered so valuable in Chinese culture?

BUDDHISM

- What is the difference between a Bodhisattva and a Buddha?
- What does incarnation mean?
- What is a *sutra*?

PAINTING AND CALLIGRAPHY

- What were the 'Four Treasures of the Chinese scholar's study' and what were they used for?

IMPORTANT PEOPLE

- Who were Confucius (551–479BC) and Mozi (c 490–403 BC) and why are they each important in Chinese history?