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Vintage Ceramic Bisque Plate Designs (Pk/12)

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Kit may contain silicone gel packets, which should be removed before use.

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Vintage Ceramic Bisque Plate Designs (Pk/12)

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE STARTING



AGE GROUP: 8 and up
PROJECT TIME: 45 minutes

YOUR KIT CONTAINS:

- Ceramic Bisque Plates
- Display Easels
- Assorted color paint
- Assorted brushes

YOU WILL NEED:

- Scrap Paper
- Pencils

EACH PERSON SHOULD HAVE:

- A Ceramic Bisque Plate
- A Display Easel

The paints and brushes will be shared among the group.

SUGGESTION FOR THE INSTRUCTOR:

Have students (with permission) bring in a piece of china from home to see if they can determine what type of china it is, or bring a couple of pieces in from your house.

All about China (the material, not the place!)

According to Collectors Weekly, there are three main types of porcelain, all of which are commonly called "china:"

- **Bone china** - Bone china originated in England around 1750. There, factories like Spode and Royal Worcester, used bone china to make tea sets, vases, dinnerware, and other items. As the name implies, bone china involves the addition of bone ash to a mixture of finely ground stone and clay. The process results in pieces that are incredibly thin and translucent.
- **Hard-paste porcelain** - Hard-paste porcelain was the original type produced in China, and it is a major fixture in antique Chinese art. According to the Bow Porcelain Factory, this type of china originally included a clay called kaolin, as well as ground alabaster. Today, it often includes quartz. The first European factory to produce hard-paste porcelain was Meissen, a German company that began production in 1710.
- **Soft-paste porcelain** - European potteries came up with a recipe for porcelain that did not involve kaolin clay from China. Instead, this softer type of china involved local clays, most notably clay from the Limoges region of France.

Use these tricks to help you figure out what kind of china you have:

- **Hold the china up to the light:** Bone china will be significantly more translucent than other types of porcelain. If you can see a lot of light coming through the piece, you most likely have china with bone ash in it.
- **Examine the color:** Bone china tends to be more ivory than white. If your piece is pure white, it is more likely to be hard or soft porcelain.
- **Look for a Backstamp:** Most fine china features an identification mark that helps to identify the manufacturer of the piece. Simply turn the piece over and look on the bottom or back. You'll usually see symbols and writing, and sometimes, there will be a raised design.

Details, Details, Details:

Now that you know about the different types of China, we can look at some different characteristics of plate designs. They offer a window into history for their patterns, use of color and symbols.

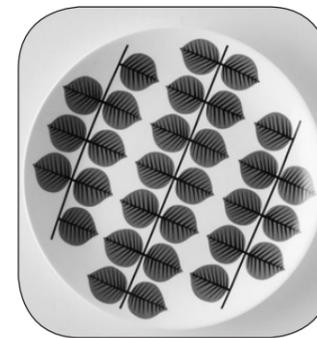
Gold Edging: Gold, or gilt, edging is one of the first things you'll notice when you look at some china patterns. Typically, this beautiful gilt paint is applied to the edges of plates, cups, bowls, and other pieces.

Major Color: While many pieces are white or ivory, there are also a number of china patterns that feature a background or much of the decoration in another color. Some shades you may see include black, pink, red, blue, and gold. Often, the back or underside of these pieces is white.

Additional Paint Colors Used: Are there other significant colors in the design? Does it have a black edge or a decoration of fuchsia flowers?

Symbols: Some common symbols or motifs used in plate design are flowers, plants, images of people (especially ladies), animals, and birds.

3 Famous Patterns (There are many more!):



Raffallesco Pattern

The Umbrian town of Deruta has been a center of ceramics production in Italy since the Renaissance. The Raffaellesco pattern, named for the artist Raphael, has been popular since the 1600s



Ming Dragon Pattern

Inspired by imported goods from Asia, Meissen's Ming Dragon was first painted in 1745. An ancient and potent symbol in Chinese art, the dragon was long reserved for the exclusive use of the emperor and his sons.



Blue Willow Pattern

Blue Willow was first engraved by Thomas Minton in 1790 and variations on the iconic blue-and-white pattern have been produced by almost every manufacturer over the last 200-plus years. This plate was made by Spode in 2002.

Resource:

<http://www.housebeautiful.com/shopping/home-accessories/g1115/vintage-fine-china-patterns-0911>

Design and Paint your own Plate:

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Decide which pattern shown above will be the inspiration for your plate design.
 2. Trace the circle shape of your plate on to your scrap paper.
 3. Sketch out your plate design and think about what colors you would like to use. Also think about a background color for your plate.
 4. Mix up enough background color paint and paint your plate, using smooth brush strokes. Let dry.
- TIP:** If you want to make your background color white, we recommend painting it white, to give it a nice finished look.
5. Refer to your sketch and carefully redraw the pattern onto your plate.
 6. Mix paints as needed and carefully paint your patterns onto your plate. Use the assortment of different brush sizes as needed. Depending on the pattern you are painting, you may need to let one layer of paint dry before adding additional details.
 7. Let your plate dry and then sign and date your name on the back (like a backstamp) and display on the included easel.