For over 500 years (1392–1910), the Joseon dynasty ruled Korea. Respect for the king, family, and faith inspired artists to create many of the objects in this exhibition. As you **explore**, think about the things you **treasure** in your own life.

**Joseon**

Pronounced “CHO-sun”

**Dynasty**

Dynasties are made up of rulers from the same family who pass power down from one generation to the next.
THE KING AND HIS COURT
ROYAL TREASURES

This folding screen was placed behind the king’s throne. The picture is almost the same on both ends, making it feel peaceful and balanced.

Did you notice the big, empty space in the middle? The king sat here, in front of the largest mountain, to show he was the center of the universe.

COUNT the number of mountaintops. They stand for the five elements of the world: wood, fire, earth, metal, and water.

LOOK for the pine trees. Unlike other trees, these stay green all year and symbolize the wish for a long life for the king.

FIND the sun and the moon. They represent yin and yang, things that are opposite but go together.

LIST three things that appear on each end of the screen:

1. ___________________________________________________
2. ___________________________________________________
3. ___________________________________________________

TREASURE HUNT

Art created for the king was made with fancy materials.

FIND objects in this area of the exhibition made from:

- [ ] Gold
- [ ] Silk
- [ ] Porcelain (a type of white clay)
Many of the things in this room were displayed in people’s homes, including this painting of a tiger. On New Year’s Eve, Joseon families hung pictures like this on their front doors for protection and good luck in the coming year.

TREASURE HUNT
Do you see objects in this room that you also have at home?

FIND:  □ A desk  □ A candlestick  □ Hairpins  □ Clothes  □ Boxes

HOW do you decorate your home for different holidays?

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

FIND the birds above the tiger. They are magpies, a type of bird believed to bring good wishes for the New Year. Their beaks are open, as though delivering a message.

WRITE what you imagine they are saying.
Respect and love for family has always been important to Koreans. Many people hold ceremonies on special occasions to remember and honor their ancestors, or family members who are gone.

These metal objects held food and drink that were offered to the ancestors during the ceremonies at the royal shrine. Sometimes, up to 80 containers were used to offer different foods, including cake, rice, fruit, and soup.

On the table below, design your own place settings to use in a family celebration. What favorite foods and drinks would you serve?

There are many animals hiding in this part of the exhibition.

Find:
- An ox and elephant made of shiny metal
- An ox and elephant made of white clay
- A rooster on a metal cup
- A dragon on a metal jar
This large wooden drum was beaten loudly to call people to the temple where they prayed to Buddha. An imaginary animal called a haetae (HEH tay) carries the drum on his back. He also guarded the temple, protecting it from evil.

The artist carved many patterns into the wood. Each has its own rhythm, like the beat of a drum. Look for these patterns, and then create your own:

Drum and Stand, 19th century, Korea (National Museum of Korea, Seoul)

Facing page: Seated Buddha, 17th and 18th century, Korea (National Museum of Korea, Seoul)
THE END OF A DYNASTY

TREASURES OF YOUR OWN

This painting is like its own art exhibition, with lots of TREASURES on display. WHICH ones remind you of things you have seen in these galleries?

What do the things on the shelves tell you about the person who owned this screen? If this was in your home, what objects would you want included? Turn the page and unfold the guide to add your own TREASURES.

Scholar’s Accoutrements, 19th century, Korea (National Museum of Korea, Seoul)

TREASURE HUNT

Paintings like this decorated reading rooms and studies, showing objects that INSPIRED creative and hard work. FIND:

- A clock
- Books
- A teapot
- Flowers
- Scrolls
DISCOVER MORE WITH YOUR FAMILY

There are more fun things to see and do at the Museum:

**EXPLORE** the galleries on a family tour,

**CREATE** art in the Family Studio or sketch in the galleries,

**CELEBRATE** with dance and music performances,

**MEET** artists, and much more!
For more information, go to the Visitor Services Desks or www.philamuseum.org/education.

General admission to the Museum on the first Sunday of every month and every Wednesday night, 5:00 to 8:45 p.m., is PAY WHAT YOU WISH. Children twelve and under are always FREE!

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Birds and plant details from *Embroidered Screen of Flowers and Birds*, late 19th to early 20th century, Korea (The Museum of Korean Embroidery, Seoul)