Dylan Thomas
5th July
Chinese Plates
Global and local designs
The first imported porcelain plates, bowls and cups were often decorated with Chinese images, such as the examples below.

When Europeans learnt how to make porcelain for themselves, it was popular to imitate Chinese images, in a style that became known as Chinoiserie (pronounced sheen-whaz-a-ree). There are several examples of this style as well as plates featuring more local pictures that were made in Swansea.

How many examples of the Chinoiserie porcelain can you find in the gallery?

Use space 1 to draw one of the locally inspired designs made in Swansea.

Use space 2 to make up your own design with a place that is important to you – your home, your place of birth, a city or even a favourite holiday location.
The porcelain trade: from China to Swansea

Porcelain or ‘China’ was exported to Europe in large quantities from China around the start of the seventeenth century. The pots were very popular for their high quality and blue and white designs. Eventually potters in Europe discovered how to make porcelain in the Chinese style, but demand for the Chinese originals remained high into the eighteenth century and beyond, when Swansea became a major producer.

The Betsy Ship plate, made in Swansea in the blue and white style c. 1800

The upper floor has examples of porcelain from all over the world. **How many different places can you find?** List the different places in the space around the edge of the map.

Map showing the main porcelain trade route between western Europe and China
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