

COLOR WHILE YOU LEARN!

Flowers, flowers, everywhere, in the Winterthur collection...



Q&A: Why are there flowers all over this dinner plate? For thousands of years, people have enjoyed surrounding themselves with flowers. They not only created beautiful gardens and brought vases of blooms indoors, but they filled their rooms with floral-pattern wallpaper, carpets and curtains. Framed flower-paintings and prints also were popular as were books that taught all about how flowers were grown in different parts of the world. Plates and dishes, as well as the cloth used for window hangings and upholstery also were decorated with vibrant designs inspired by realistic or imaginary blooms, buds and leaves.

Learn more: Chinese potters made the porcelain plate shown here in the late 1800s, and then it was shipped around the world to be enjoyed by people living in Europe and America. The pattern was known by the French name *mille fleur*, meaning “thousand flowers,” though there aren’t really that many flowers in the design. [Visit our online collections.](#)

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