To create these intricate designs, the piece mold casting method would be used.

A model of the object is made first, then a clay mold is taken of that model. The mold is then cut into sections. This technique enabled the bronzeworkers to make refinements to the mold, adding definition and sharpness to the design. The sections are fired (baked at high heat so clay becomes hard)

The mold is then reassembled and ready to be used, the cavity is then filled with molten bronze.

We can’t reproduce this at home but we could try and make a 3D taotie design and create an interesting object. You might already have found and designed a 2-D taotie. Could you use the animal features again?

**Challenge:**

Cut out the features of animal faces

Use these as templates, draw around them onto cardboard

When you are happy, glue the features together to create the new taotie

**You will need:**

Use the images on the extra sheet to help

Paper, cardboard (old pizza or cereal boxes) scissors, glue, animal features to cut out (or draw your own)
China: Create a 3D Taotie decoration

Find or re-use your animal features

Use the paper templates to draw around. Cut out cardboard versions.

Cut up some small squares of cardboard, they can be used as ‘pads’ underneath the features. Use them to add extra depth to certain features, if you want to raise them up more.

Experiment with your design. Add as much detail as you wish, you might alter the design, add curves, stripes or feather shapes once you have the base of the mask.

Try the features in different places until you are happy with it.

Try placing the taotie on the large side of a cardboard box in readiness for the next activity!

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