

Episode Seven The National Palace Museum

Nana: Is this a Chinese cabbage? What a delicate and beautiful piece of art!

Doug: Oh, I know this, I know this! This is the famous Jadeite Cabbage at the National Palace Museum.

Dean: Hey, look. There are two insects on the cabbage.

May: One of them is a katydid and the other is a grasshopper. They symbolize fertility and having many children.

Nana: Besides the collection in the National Palace Museum, it seems that most Chinese like jade quite a lot.

Cooper: That is very true, Nana. Charms and necklaces made with jade help avert bad luck. Jade also represents one's social status.

May: Jade is also a symbol of royalty, elegance, and character.

Nana: I'm not very familiar with jade. Perhaps it is because the West doesn't produce as much jade. Westerners prefer precious metals and gems.

Dean: Yes. Crowns worn by royalty in the West are always adorned with precious stones that symbolize royalty and power.

Nana: Are there many ancient Chinese artifacts at the National Palace Museum?

Cooper: Yes, most of them are here. But many can also be found in various parts of the world.

Doug: In other countries? How come?

Cooper: Near the end of the Qing Dynasty, the British and French troops took many precious cultural items from the Old Summer Palace in China. Some of those became the collection of museums in the U.K. and France.

Doug: Well, that means that foreigners don't need to visit the National Palace

Museum. They can also see these treasured artifacts in their own countries.

