

Museum of Art and Archaeology

Educator's Guide

Welcome to the online resources from the Museum of Art and Archaeology. On this site you will find images and information about 30 artworks selected as a representation of the broad spectrum of time and geography covered in the Museum's collections. Each online entry has the following components:

Image(s)

Images of each object are available for download. You can project them in your classroom, make color prints, etc. You should be able to zoom in on details to closely examine each work and identify various points of interest.

Guiding Questions

Each entry will be accompanied by information and ideas related to the work, beginning with guiding questions. These questions are designed to be open-ended to encourage discussion but are also specific to each object. You may decide to use more generic questions like those used in Visual Thinking Strategies <https://vtshome.org/>. Discussing and describing what they see encourages students to develop communication skills as they translate the visual input of the art into vocal output in discussion.

About the Work/Artist/Culture

The guiding questions will be followed by a section describing the work of art and identifying some of the terminology used for that time period or material. This section is intended to be targeted toward the Educator, who might choose to share all or part of the information with students based on prior knowledge and age group.

Connections

The Connections section has further questions for students that ask them to compare the object to another work of art from the Museum, a contemporary example of the object, or other material. This encourages critical thinking as students apply what they just learned about the original work to a new situation, or adapt their previous thinking to include new information provided by another artwork.

Activities

There are hands-on art-making activities suggested to accompany each object as well. In some cases, there are various activities suggested for different age groups.

Additional Resources

Each entry also includes links to other resources that might include more information about the artist, other related museum exhibitions, or information about the time period. These are good places to start if your students have questions about the work that aren't answered by the included information.

Educational Standards

These resources stimulate communication and critical thinking skills. In particular, facilitating discussions about an artwork directly applies to those skills involved in speaking and listening. When students support their statements with evidence based in the artwork, they are also learning skills that can be applied in reading and writing. Students who learn to use visual evidence will also be able to use literary evidence to make an argument. Most of the discussion questions could also be used as writing prompts to develop writing skills.