

The Great Outdoors

KINDERGARTEN



Based on images of three works of art from VMFA's collection, these activities will provide your students with background information before their visit and, afterwards, encourage them to draw conclusions from what they saw. The works may or may not be shown on your guided tour, but they are related to the tour theme, and the pre-visit activities will help prepare the students for the interactive component of the tour.

Tour Description

Artists are keen observers of nature! Safari through ancient to modern galleries and investigate pictorial environments to find many unique plants, animals, birds, and insects.

Tour Objectives

1. Students will see a variety of animals from different environments.
2. Students will see how artists use nature as subject matter and/or as a source for materials.
3. Students will understand that people in all cultures create works of art.
4. Students will use their senses to make observations about art.
5. Students will describe what they see by using appropriate art vocabulary and positional/directional words.

Virginia Standards of Learning for Kindergarten

The following SOLs are for the tour and follow-up activities:

Visual Arts

- K.7 The student will identify and use the following in works of art:
1. Color—red, blue, yellow, green, orange, violet, brown, black, white
 2. Line—straight/curved, thick/thin, long/short, up/down/across
 3. Shape—circle, square, triangle, rectangle, oval
 4. Texture—visual, tactile
 5. Pattern—occurring naturally, made by people
- K.9 The student will identify spatial relationships—left, right, top, bottom, side, center, front, back, over, and under.
- K.12 The student will identify people who make art as “artists.”
- K.14 The student will describe the concept that people in all cultures create works of art.
- K.15 The student will describe and respond to works of art.
- K.16 The student will classify objects in the environment by their visual qualities (e.g., color, texture, line, shape, pattern).

History and Social Science

- K.2 The student will describe everyday life in the present and in the past and begin to recognize that things change over time.
- K.3 The student will describe the relative location of people, places, and things by using positional words, with emphasis on near/far, above/below, left/right, and behind/in front.
- K.6 The student will match simple descriptions of work that people do with the names of those jobs.

Science

- K.2 The student will investigate and understand that humans have senses that allow them to seek, find, take in, and react or respond to information in order to learn about their surroundings. Key concepts include the five senses and corresponding sensing organs and sensory descriptors.
- K.4 The student will investigate the color, shape, texture, and size of an object.
- K.7 The student will understand that all living things have basic life needs and life processes.
- K.9 The student will investigate and understand simple patterns in his/her daily life. Key concepts include weather observations and animal and plant growth.
- K.10 The student will investigate and understand that changes occur over time. Key concepts include seasonal changes.

Pre-Visit Activities

Object 1



***Still Life*, ca. 1640–50**
Jan Davidsz De Heem (Dutch, 1606–1684)
Oil on canvas
Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Fund, 61.15

Jan De Heem [yahn-dey-hem] was a painter from a country called the Netherlands and is most famous for painting works we call still-lives. Still-lives are paintings of objects (rather than people) like fruit, flowers, and food. Artists like de Heem often add some form of animal life to these works. Many of the items shown would have been from places all across the world but have been assembled for this painting by the artist. The fruits, for example, were not native to the Netherlands where this work was painted. Although the Dutch did start growing some of them in greenhouses around this time, they would have been very expensive to purchase.

Pre-Visit Activities

Questions

- Why do you think these types of paintings are called still-lives?
Nothing is moving (the only living creature is the parrot).
- What types of food do you see? What types of fruit?
Lobster, grapes, pomegranate, lemon, walnuts, peach
- Where do we usually buy all of our fruit today?
The grocery store
- What kinds of animals do you see?
Lobster, bird (African grey parrot)
- If you could paint a still-life, what objects would you include?
- What sorts of shapes and colors do you see in this painting?
Let the students tell you what they see.
- Imagine you were sitting at a table with all of this food in front of you. What would you eat first? Use your senses: what would you smell? What sounds would you hear? What textures could you feel?

Pre-Visit Activities

Objects 2 and 3



Farm Scene in Summer and Farm Scene in Winter, 1802

W. Williams (English, active 1802)

Oil on panel

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon, 85.479.1-2

William Williams, an artist from England who lived more than two hundred years ago, painted these scenes of the same farm in two different seasons in 1802. Back in those times work on the farm had to be done by hand or with the help of animals. Today we have modern machines like tractors to do the work. A landscape is a picture of natural scenery that includes landforms, trees, flowers, weather, and the other elements within a particular environment. Art depicting British country life, including sporting activities, served as historical documentation of a particular time period and way of life.

Pre-Visit Activities

Questions

- What are clues that these paintings were painted long ago?
The type of clothing the farmer and workers wear, the look of the house, the farm tools and equipment
- What types of equipment might you see on a farm today?
Tractors, plows
- What animals do you see?
Horses, cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys, a dog
- How can animals be helpful to humans?
We can use animals for transportation, either by harnessing them to vehicles or riding them; animals can also pull machines such as plows.
- What types of things can we get from animals?
We can get food from animals: eggs and meat from chickens, milk and meat from cows, and meat from pigs and turkeys. Leather also comes from animals, as does hair for weaving clothes.
- Which animals are the biggest? Smallest?
Cows and horses are the biggest, the chicks and piglets are the smallest.
- There are four seasons. Which of the two seasons did William Williams leave out?
Spring and fall
- What colors do you see in the summer painting? Winter?
Let the students tell you what they see.
- Use all of your senses and imagine you were on this farm either in summer or winter. What sounds would you hear? What would you smell?

Post-Visit Activities

- Ask the students what they learned from their visit. Pull out the K-W-L charts and fill in their answers. Ask them if the questions they had before their visit were answered.
- Show students the three images again and ask them what they remember about the seeing the works of art in the galleries. Did they look different from what they expected? What did they learn about the subjects of the paintings as well as the paintings themselves?
- The three works are from a long time ago. Ask the students how has life changed since then and how a picture of the same things today might be different.
- Make a list of the works students remember visiting on their tour. Ask them what their favorite work was and why. Then have them draw the work and add as many details as they can.
- Please let us know how your students have been inspired by VMFA! Visit our tumblr page and submit images of student works at: <http://vmfaeducation.tumblr.com/>



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