

Getting Started Pre- and post visit activities - Directions for teachers

Pre- and post visit activities are intended to help prepare your students for your pre-booked guided tour and offer suggestions for follow-up activities and questions. If you have not booked a tour already, please fill out the [request a tour form](#). Please make sure to refer to the specific pre- and post visit activity pdf appropriate for your guided tour.

Before your visit, please be sure to review the [guided tour checklist](#).

You may also wish to prepare your students for the visit by discussing what they will be seeing and asking some guiding questions.

Suggested general discussion points and questions before your visit:

- What is a museum? Who has been to a museum? What types of objects will you will see in an art museum?
- Explain that the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is a museum full of thousands of wonderful works of art from all over the world and across time.
- Discuss the idea that they will be viewing original works of art, including paintings and sculptures. Reiterate that we cannot touch these works of art.
- Tell students their guided tour will be led by a trained volunteer called a docent.
- Discuss the theme of the tour with the students.
- Do a K-W-L exercise with the children and make a chart. What do students already **K**now about a museum or the subject of your tour? What do they **W**ant to know? After the visit ask what they have **L**earned.

After your visit, refer to the follow up questions and post-visit activity suggestions for your specific tour topic.