

**ART TREK: STOP, LOOK, AND WONDER  
TOUR OF THE JOHNSON MUSEUM  
For families with young children ages 3-7**

Welcome to the ART TREK!

The activity cards in this pack are a way for you and your child to explore the Museum together and to learn more about the art in our collection.

We ask you to help your child find the work of art pictured on each card, then stop, look closely at each object, reflect, discuss a few questions, and use your imagination. Follow-up activities to do at home are also suggested. We enclose a map showing where the objects are in the building, but feel free to go in any order you wish. Use all of the cards, or just a few, whatever your child enjoys.

You can use this format for looking at lots of other objects in the Johnson Museum, or other museums. Look for colors and shapes, count, draw, and talk your way through the galleries. You'll be surprised at what you learn.

When you're done with the tour, please fill out the response card and return the kit and the card to the receptionist and receive a small gift. You can keep the picture cards if you like and talk about them at home. We appreciate your help in suggesting improvements to this project.

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## **Stop, Look, and Describe**

*Portrait of Two Children*  
by Susan Waters

A portrait is a picture or drawing of a person. This painting, by Susan Waters, is a portrait of two young boys. Take a few seconds to look at it closely. Do they look like boys to you? What kind of clothes are they wearing? Do you notice anything else?

## **Reflect, Talk, and Imagine**

Sometimes, we can learn a lot about a person in a portrait by looking closely at the other objects in the painting. What are some of the other things you can find in this painting?

Find a hat on the ground. Imagine whose hat it might be.  
Look for the puppy. Do you think it has a name? Who does it belong to?  
Why do you think the boys are holding hands?  
Where was this painted? Outside or inside?

Even though these are boys, it looks like they are wearing dresses. Their outfits are tunics (say “too-nicks”). When this was painted about 150 years ago, little boys wore tunics. Can you see that the boys have pants on underneath their tunics? This is what makes them different from dresses for little girls. What would you like to wear if someone painted your portrait? Would your clothes be fancy? What else would be in your portrait?

## **At Home**

Find a picture of you or someone in your family and try to draw a portrait. Use your imagination to include different things that remind you of the person you’re drawing.



## **Stop, Look, and Describe**

*Fields in the Month of June*  
by Charles-Francois Daubigny

Look carefully at this painting. What did you notice first?

Find the animals: donkey? birds? horse?

Notice how big the field and sky are and how small the people are. This artist was more interested in the field and nature. This type of picture is called a *landscape*.

Name all the colors you see. Use the color cards to help.

Which one is your favorite?

## **Reflect, Talk, and Imagine**

The painting is so big, it seems we can walk right into the field. Even though it was painted more than 100 years ago, in France, it looks a lot like places around Ithaca.

Imagine you are in this field. What sounds do you hear? What do you smell? What is the weather like? What season is it? Why do you think that?

As you walk through the grass, what kind of bugs and insects do you see? Draw some on one of the blank cards in your bag.

## **At Home**

When you get home, draw a postcard-sized picture of your backyard or your favorite place to go outside. Color it in and send it to a friend or family member. Maybe they'll send a card back to you!



## **Stop, Look, and Describe**

*Pillow in the form of a tiger, Cizhou Ware*

Look carefully at this object for several seconds.

What animal is this?

What colors do you see?

What designs or patterns do you see on the animal?

Does it look like it is soft or hard? Smooth or rough?

What are some things that it might be made from?

## **Reflect, Talk, and Imagine**

Do you know what this object was used for? It is actually a headrest or a pillow. That is why it is smooth and curved in the top. It is made from clay.

Why do you think they used a tiger for the design?

In ancient China, people thought that tigers were very brave and could protect you while you were sleeping. They were also signs of good luck. The pillows were hard because some people believed that a soft pillow could soak up your energy and make you more tired.

Imagine how it would feel to sleep on a pillow like this. Do you think it would be comfortable? Is your pillow at home hard or soft?

To the left of this pillow, you can see another Chinese headrest. How is it different from the tiger pillow? How is it the same?

## **At Home**

Lots of people in the world use hard pillows. Try using a thick book as a pillow to see if it is comfortable. Try lying on the floor without any kind of pillow. Now try your own pillow. Which one do you like best?



## **Stop, Look, and Describe**

*Bamana Antelope Headdress (Chi Wara),  
20th century*

Look closely at this sculpture. What animal do you think this is? (Hint: It lives in Africa.) Did you guess antelope, a deer-like creature? What is it made of? This antelope was carved out of wood in Africa. It is attached to a hat, and worn as a headdress. See how many different shapes you can find on the antelope. Count the triangles. Are there any squares? Look for a curved part, and then try to find some straight lines.

## **Reflect, Talk, and Imagine**

Antelopes are very special animals to the Bamana people of Africa. The people believe they are related to antelopes. There is a story that an antelope helped them learn to grow food to eat, so every year the Bamana people have a celebration to thank the antelope for helping them. They dress up in special clothes and dance wearing a headdress like the one you see in the case. Can you think of an animal that is helpful to you? How is it helpful?

Antelopes can run very fast because they have long legs.

Does this antelope have long legs? Do you think it could run fast?

Look at the horns on this antelope. What do they look like? Some antelopes have straight horns and some have curved horns. What do you think the horns are used for?

Can you find another animal in the case? What is it?

## **At Home**

Is there an animal that is special in your life? Why is it special?

Draw a picture of your animal and tell the story about why it is so important.



## **Stop, Look, and Describe**

*Portal Lioness with Cubs, Italian, ca.1200*

Look carefully at this statue.

What kind of animal is it? What do you think it is made of?

This statue is very old. It was originally part of a building portal, an entrance to a cathedral in Italy.

Which part of the sculpture is broken? The lion's lower jaw was probably broken off when the sculpture was moved from the church to become part of a garden fountain.

If you look at it from the side, what do you see under the lioness?

There are two baby lions.

## **Reflect, Talk and Imagine**

Sculptures of lions were placed at the doors of churches as guardians because people believed that lions sleep with their eyes open. Why would it be helpful to sleep with your eyes open?

This mother lion is also guarding her babies by standing over them for protection. Can you think of some other reasons that a lion is a good guardian animal? What animal would you like to have as a guardian at your house?

This lion is carved out of stone because stone is very strong. The flat part behind the lion's head used to be the bottom of a column that held the roof up over the doorway. Now, think about what a real lion looks like. What kind of fur does it have—soft or hard? What color is the fur? Is a lion strong or weak? Does a real lion look the same as this sculpture of a lion? How is it different? How is it the same?

## **At Home**

Draw a picture of you and your guardian animal. Think about what makes it so special. Does it have wings? Can it breathe under water? Is it big or small? Use your imagination!