

Educator's Guide

***Getty Virtual Art Explorations for K12** is an online program which encourages active engagement through close looking at works of art in the Getty Collection in conversation with Getty Museum Educators. Here are some useful resources to help prepare students for their Art Explorations session.*

Prepare for your session:

- Review Zoom guidelines with the class.
- Practice using the chat function to express their thoughts or questions during discussions respectfully.
- Have questions ready for the Getty Museum Educators. It can revolve around an artist, a movement, or a style. Art-related questions are more than welcome

Pre-session Activity: Get to Know the Getty Museum

Introducing the Getty Museum

[Getty Center Orientation Film](#) (10:38)

[Getty Villa Orientation Film](#) (8:15)

Pre-session Activity: Thirty-Second Look

Activity Overview

Students practice close observation to learn more about works of art.

Learning Objectives

Students should be able to:

- Articulate the benefits of looking at a work of art longer than 30 seconds.
- Express how discussing a work of art with others results in increased understanding.

Activity Steps

Step 1: Select a piece of art from our website: [Getty Collection](#)

Step 2: Ask students to estimate how long they think the average museum visitor spends looking at a work of art. One minute? 10 minutes? An hour? What do they think? **Answer: Museum studies have determined that the average viewer spends about 30 seconds looking at a work of art.**

Step 3: Share your screen with the artwork and give students 30 seconds to look. After 30 seconds, stop sharing your screen.

Step 4: Ask each student to name one thing they saw in the picture. Try not to repeat answers. If necessary, prompt your students with questions: *Did you see any people in the picture? Is the scene tidy or chaotic? Did anyone see animals? What kind of action did you see?*

Step 5: Then ask students to describe the one aspect of the work that they remember most vividly. *Does everyone have the same recollection? Comment on the variety of responses. Did they all look at the same artwork?!*

Step 6: (Share your screen again.) Ask your students, *What do you see that is new or different than the first look? What do you notice that was not mentioned before?*

Step 7: Ask students to consider how much longer they spent looking at the work of art the second time, and to explain their reactions to the work. *Was their initial glance enough?*

Step 8: Discuss with students how comparing observations with other people was helpful in determining the meaning in a work of art. Ask students to explain how discussing their observations with their peers helped them see and understand the work of art in different ways.

Post-session Activity: Time to Reflect

Activity Overview

Through this activity students to reflect on what they experienced during the session. In what ways was viewing an artwork online different or similar to seeing an artwork in person? Discuss the difference when looking at paintings, sculptures, and photos? How has this experience changed the way they look at art? Discuss with classmates what makes art interesting to them.

Learning Objectives

Students will reflect on what they would want to see on a visit to the Getty Museum and express their thoughts on experiencing art in person. *Did this session change the way they look at art? How will they look at art differently now that they've seen an art piece closely?*

Activity Steps

Step 1: Students discuss questions in pairs, as a group, or write their responses in the chat.

Step 2: Ask students follow-up questions such as:

- What were some similarities in experiences?
- What were some differences?
- What type of art would you like to see more of?
- Overall, how impactful was the virtual experience?
- Did they gain any new experience?
- What would they do different next time?
- In what other ways would they like to engage with art?

Step 3: After finishing the discussion, ask students to find a favorite art piece from the Getty Collection using the link above. (If they're a younger age, have a parent or guardian help them find a favorite art piece.)

Step 4: Have them observe their favorite art piece closely and write down their observations.

Resources Available for Educators

[For Teachers \(A Getty Museum YouTube Video Playlist\)](#)

[Getty K-12 Resources](#)



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