

Pre-Lesson: How to Look at a Work of Art



HELLO!

We are so excited to have you visit the Utah Museum of Fine Arts (UMFA) on a digital field trip! On your field trip we are going to explore art in fun and interesting ways.

To prepare, please complete the following creativity warm-up!

**What is Art?
(10–20-minute activity)**

For this activity you will need:

- Paper**
- Pencil**

We know we won't see you at the UMFA in person, but we hope we do soon! In the meantime, please enjoy this short video about the Museum's history and some interesting artworks in its' galleries.

[Click here.](#)



Now that you have learned about the Utah Museum of Fine Arts, let's explore...

WHAT IS ART?



As a class, in a group, or with a friend or family member, discuss the following questions:

- What does the word “ART” mean to you?**
- What different kinds of art can you think of?**
- Who makes art in your family? What do they make?**

What do these ideas mean to you?

- CREATIVITY
- EMOTION
- EXPERIENCE
- MEANING

Write down a few words or draw pictures to describe them!



Great work! Here are some things we came up with:

- **CREATIVITY** – Imagination; creating original ideas.
- **EMOTION** – A strong feeling.
- **EXPERIENCE** – Living through an event; learning something by doing something.
- **MEANING** – An idea / information that is communicated.

**Now, watch the short
video *What is Art?*
(running time 2:25
minutes)**

[Click here.](#)



What did you learn about ART in the video? Did anything surprise you?

Discuss!

- **What is an artist?**
- **Where do you think artists get their ideas for making art?**
- **What kind of art do you create?**

ART...

- **is EVERYWHERE!**
- **can express thoughts, ideas, and feelings!**
- **can build creativity and let you think of new and exciting ideas!**
- **can tell stories!**

CREATIVE CHALLENGE!

Use art to tell a story using pictures! Set a timer for 1-minute and using your paper, pencil, and creativity, draw a story of your choice.

- Is your story real or imagined?**
- What are the main parts of the story?**
- Who are the characters?**

When time is up, share your story with others!

Now that we have discovered more about what art is, on your UMFA field trip we will explore:

How to Look at a Work of Art

Slide 3 | Egypt, XVIII Dynasty (1550B.C.-1307B.C.), *Ring with a Design of the Eye of Horus*, Egyptian Faience, Gift of Natacha Rambova, UMFA1952.023.027.025. Slide 4, left | Guatemala, Petén region, Maya culture, Late Classic Period (600-900), *Bowl with Historical Scene and Glyphs*, earthenware and pigment, purchased with funds from Friends of the Art Museum, UMFA1984.002. Slide 4, right | Chakaia Booker, American, *Discarded Memories*, 2008, tire, wood, metal, paint, purchased with funds from the UMFA Young Benefactors and the Phyllis Cannon Wattis Endowment for Modern and Contemporary Art, UMFA 2009.15.1A,B. Slide 6 | *King's Hat*, Yoruba, mid-20th century, cloth, basketry, glass beads, detail, UMFA2008.32.31. Slide 8 | Francois Ykens, Flemish, *Flower Still Life*, 1644, oil on panel, gift of Val A. Browning, UMFA1993.034.006.

Thanks for using your smARTs to explore What is ART!? We can't wait to see you soon!



Annie



Ashley



Katie



Drew



Rilie

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