



Grades K – 3

Look and Learn: Exploring Art at the Huntington

TEACHER INFORMATION:

This tour is designed for students in grades K-3, and emphasizes types of art (landscape, portrait, narrative art, and furniture) and key elements of art (space, texture, color, and lines and shapes). Students will identify these types of art and elements of art, and be introduced to vocabulary words (underlined). These skills are recommended in the California curriculum standards.

Before your visit, please select chaperones and prepare them for this visit; the Huntington requires one adult chaperone for each group of 10 children. Print a copy of the worksheet for each chaperone and provide a pencil (no pens are permitted in the galleries). The chaperone will lead a group to the four highlighted works, read the questions, note the answers, and, time permitting, complete the extension activities.

When you arrive at the Huntington, get a map for each teacher and chaperone. The Huntington guards can also direct you to the galleries. Assign different starting points for each chaperone to avoid crowding before works of art. Please be informed that some works may not be on display the day you visit.

Additional activities before and after your visit can be based on materials provided at the Huntington's website, as well as images of the highlighted works.

We hope you enjoy your visit to the Huntington!

Brief descriptions of the art works used for this worksheet:

John Constable (England, 1776-1837), *View on the Stour near Dedham*, 1822. Oil on canvas (51 x 74 inches). Acc. No. 25.18

CONSTABLE repeatedly painted his boyhood home, an English village near this view of the Stour (pronounced “store”) River. The boats, bridge, house (on the right) and the distant church tower (from Dedham) were familiar sites to Constable, as were the cloudy sky and lush foliage of trees and plants native to southeastern England. In depicting nature with such accuracy, Constable broke with convention. At this time, artists were encouraged to include figures from the Bible or ancient history in their paintings of nature, to enhance their importance. Constable argued that detailed depictions of place could be the subject of serious art.

Thomas Gainsborough (England, 1727-88), *Jonathan Buttall: The Blue Boy*, 1770. Oil on canvas (70 ½ x 48 ¾ inches). Acc. No. 21.1

GAINSBOROUGH, a famous British portrait painter in the 18th century, actually preferred landscape painting. But his ability to present the human figure in a relaxed, but lively pose, and depict the luxury fabrics of silk and lace explain his success as a portrait painter. *The Blue Boy* shows his childhood friend, Jonathan Buttall (rhymes with cuddle), who was probably a teen at the time. Gainsborough asked his friend to dress in clothes fashionable a century earlier and strike a pose associated with the wealthy. This style appears in paintings by Anthony Van Dyck, the most admired painter in Britain at this time.

Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene (United States, Charles: 1868-1957, Henry: 1870-1954), *Dining Room Furniture for the William R. Thorsen House, Berkeley, California, 1908-09*. Honduras mahogany, ebony, brass pins; fruitwood, oak, and abalone inlays; leather seats. On loan from Gamble House/USC

The GREENE brothers became the most famous architects and furniture designers in Pasadena around 1910. They designed homes and furnishings in the Arts and Crafts style, and for clients throughout California. The dining room furniture on view at the Huntington was made for the Thorsens, who lived in Berkeley. The use of costly and exotic woods, the finest craftsmanship, simple lines, and delicate inlays (the technique of laying materials into tiny grooves on the surface of the wood) all characterize the Greenes' best work. The Thorsen pieces include an inlay resembling a periwinkle, a plant Charles Greene may have found in his Pasadena neighborhood.

Mary Cassatt (United States, 1844-1926), *Breakfast in Bed*, 1897. Oil on canvas (25 ½ x 29 inches). Acc. No. 83.8.6

CASSATT, born in Pennsylvania, spent her adult life in Paris, where she became famous as one of the Impressionist artists. Many of her paintings, like *Breakfast in Bed*, feature a woman and child. This interest in uneventful daily activities—called genre subjects—typifies Impressionism. So does the application of short, individual strokes of paint, especially noticeable in the bed linens. Mary Cassatt is considered a pioneer among American women of her generation, achieving international renown at a time when few women had opportunities to enroll in art school or exhibit their works.



LOOK AND LEARN: EXPLORING ART AT THE HUNTINGTON *Worksheet*

Follow the LINES to learn what's INSIDE

Furniture: Charles and Henry Greene, *Sideboard for the Thorsen House Dining Room*
In the Scott Gallery of American Art

Explore: Lines and Shapes

Lines and shapes make up this piece of furniture. The artists said to themselves. . .

Let's make a piece with vertical lines, so the furniture can stand tall. Can you find the vertical lines?

Then they said: We'll add horizontal lines to hold everything together. Where are these horizontal lines?

○

Then they thought some more and said: Boxes, or cubes, would fit on either end, with doors in the shape of rectangles. See them?

○

Long boxes can be drawers, they thought. Where are the drawers? What shape are they?

○

They wanted still more shapes: Let's add shapes from nature, maybe a flower. Sure enough, there are two flowers. Can you find them?

○

When all the lines and shapes came together, the artists had made a sideboard for a dining room. What would you put in the drawers of a sideboard? Behind the doors?

Extension: Find more furniture made of lines and shapes. Are any decorated with flowers?

Finish a story that's RED in BED

Painting: Cassatt, *Breakfast in Bed*. In the Scott Gallery of American Art

Explore: Color

There are lots of colors in this painting. Look for reds and pinks and soft, warm browns. Where do you see these colors?

○

These colors are called warm colors. Warm colors describe warm things, like skin. Warm colors describe happy feelings, too, like having breakfast in a soft, warm bed.

Cool colors are green, blue and purple. Can you find these colors?

○

Cool colors keep their cool. In this painting, they let the warm colors stand out and tell the story. What is the story? A child enjoys breakfast in bed. What happens next?

Extension: Find other paintings that tell a story.

Find a PLACE that's filled with SPACE

Painting: Constable, *View on the Stour* (pronounced “store”) near Dedham

In the Huntington Gallery

Explore: Space

Picture yourself in England, by this river. You see boats near the trees. Are they . . .

- Close?
- Far away?

Make believe you're in one of the boats. Head toward the bridge. Will you go . . .

- Over the bridge?
- Under the bridge?

Keep going! Pass the boat with a sail. Is the boat with the sail in the . . .

- Middle of the painting?
- Back of the painting?

Keep going in your boat. See the little building? Is it . . .

- Close?
- Far away?

Congratulations! You've just walked through a landscape painting. You started in the foreground by the trees and boats, moved under a bridge, kept going into the middle ground, and ended up, way in the distance, in the background.

Keep walking through this painting. Where will you go if you cross the bridge?

Extension: Find another landscape painting filled with space.

Find the MAN with hat in HAND

Painting: Gainsborough, *The Blue Boy*. In the Huntington Gallery

Explore: Texture

Meet Jonathan Buttall (rhymes with cuddle). He's all dressed up for a portrait—that's a painting of a person. Look at his clothing and describe the way you think it feels.

Feather on the hat:

- Soft as a dog's coat? . . . or
- Squishy like an old banana?

Jacket:

- Smooth as silk? . . . or
- Prickly like a cactus?

Buttons on the jacket:

- Hard as the seed inside a peach? . . . or
- Soft like butter?

Great! You've just described textures, or the feel of materials. Can you find other textures in this painting? What words describe them?

Extension: Find other portraits and describe the textures.