

Make the most of your art museum visit!

Try some of the following tips for looking at and engaging with works of art.











Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) is an easy way to engage your students and encourage discussion with almost any work of art in the Cincinnati Art Museum. There are only three questions you need to remember: What's going on in this image? What do you see that makes you say that? And, what more can we find? After students share their observations be sure to rephrase what they say, while pointing to the area of the work of art they referencing, doing so makes it easy for everyone to follow the discussion.

Gallery Interactives:

1. Select a work of art and let each student share one word that describes what they observe. After each student has shared, have a brief discussion about this artwork and, as a group, look for other ways to describe what is seen.
2. Separate the students into small groups and let each group pick an artwork in the gallery. Then ask them to act out what they believe to be happening in the scene. After 5 min. have each group present their play to the class.
3. Find a work of art from another time period. Compare and contrast life during this time period with our contemporary lifestyle.
4. Pick out a work of art. Have your students discuss where and how (on a pedestal, framed, on a table...) they would display this piece of art, if they were the owners.
5. Pick an artwork and have your students imagine that the piece is featured on the front page of the Cincinnati newspaper. What would the headline say? What would the article be about?
6. Choose a work of art with figures. Have your students mimic the facial expressions in the image. Ask, "What type of emotion(s) do you think these figures were feeling?" Look at the rest of the work of art for clues.
7. Choose a work of art and ask your students what they imagine meeting the artist would be like. Have the students think about what they would say to the artist and consider questions they would ask.
8. Select a landscape painting. Tell the students, "Imagine you are living in this painting's scene. What else do you see, hear or smell around you?"
9. Story Chain: Begin in front of one art piece, and start a story based off what you see. Have each student add to the story with one sentence, until everyone has shared with the group. Work together to develop a conclusion to the story.
10. Find two works of art next to one another in a gallery. As a group discuss why the curator placed these two works of art together. What do the two works of art have in common? How are they different?

Teacher & Chaperone Focus Guide

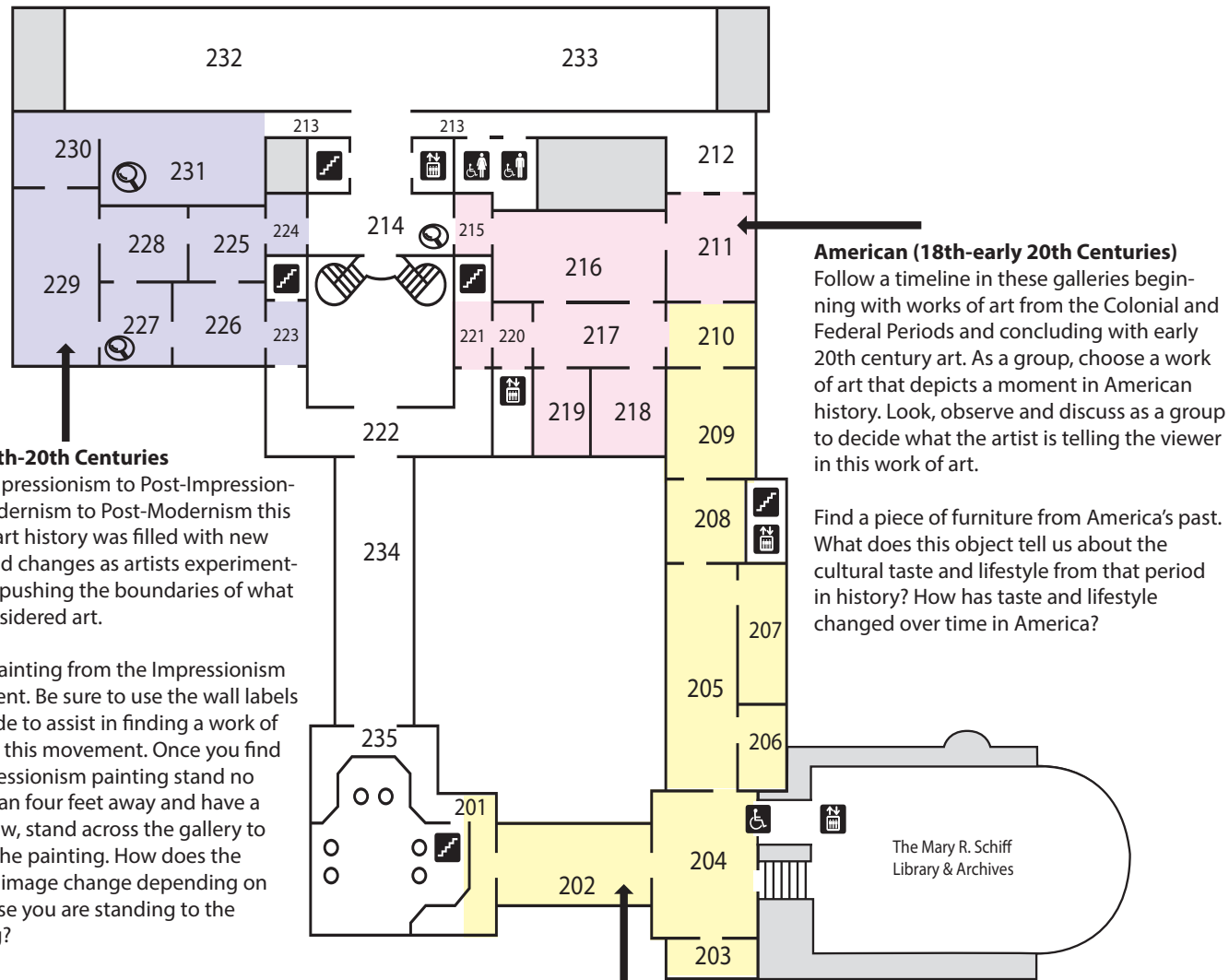
Before we get started please go over some manners with your group.

-  Please stay three feet away from the art, cases or wall labels even when gesturing as the oils on our hands cause damage.
-  Remind your group to only walk while in the museum and always stay together with assigned adults.
-  Please use inside voices at all times.
-  If your group will be writing in the galleries please only use pencils--no markers or pens allowed. We also ask that you do not use the gallery walls or cases as writing surfaces. Instead, borrow a clipboard from the Visitor Services Desk.
-  We ask that there is no eating, drinking or chewing gum in the galleries.
-  Please leave all backpacks or large bags in the coatcheck room. Security or Visitor Services can help you if you need assistance.
-  If you or anyone in your group has questions while in the galleries, there are friendly guards stationed throughout the museum. Say hello, and don't be afraid to ask for help!
-  Keep a look out for our gallery interactives. They are marked on this guide with the following symbol. 
-  Finally, please be sure to enjoy your time here at the museum!

Now, let's go see some art!

Second Floor Cincinnati Art Museum

2ND FLOOR



Late 19th-20th Centuries

From Impressionism to Post-Impressionism, Modernism to Post-Modernism this time in art history was filled with new ideas and changes as artists experimented with pushing the boundaries of what was considered art.

Find a painting from the Impressionism movement. Be sure to use the wall labels as a guide to assist in finding a work of art from this movement. Once you find an Impressionism painting stand no more than four feet away and have a look. Now, stand across the gallery to look at the painting. How does the painted image change depending on how close you are standing to the painting?

American (18th-early 20th Centuries)

Follow a timeline in these galleries beginning with works of art from the Colonial and Federal Periods and concluding with early 20th century art. As a group, choose a work of art that depicts a moment in American history. Look, observe and discuss as a group to decide what the artist is telling the viewer in this work of art.

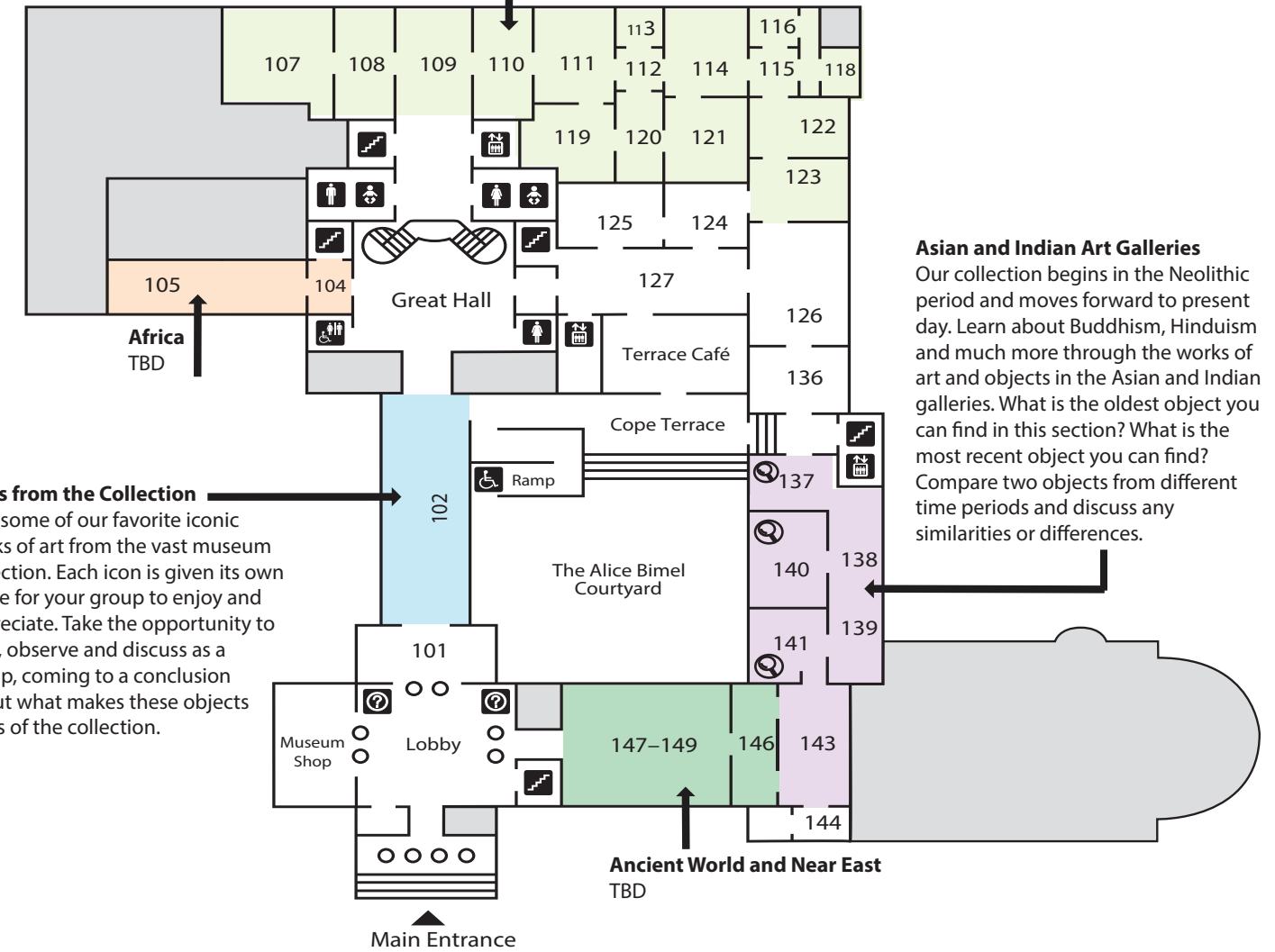
Find a piece of furniture from America's past. What does this object tell us about the cultural taste and lifestyle from that period in history? How has taste and lifestyle changed over time in America?

European (13th -18th Centuries)

Explore and learn about Romanesque and Gothic Art, in addition to the Renaissance and the Baroque periods. Find galleries dedicated to the Dutch, Spanish, French and British artists. As a group, choose a painting or sculpture depicting an action scene. Take turns interpreting out loud the story you see unfolding in this work of art; each group member should contribute a sentence or statement to the story. Now together read the label for the work of art, which will share the artist, title and description. Compare the artist's intent to your own interpretation. How does the new information change how you see this work of art? Now, try this same activity with a landscape or portrait.

First Floor Cincinnati Art Museum

1ST FLOOR



Cincinnati Wing

In the Cincinnati Wing, explore the "Queen City's" vibrant art history. Be sure to watch the introductory video found at the start of this wing to discover the various themes found within these galleries. Compare the development of painting, sculpture and decorative arts throughout Cincinnati's history.

Africa TBD

Icons from the Collection

Visit some of our favorite iconic works of art from the vast museum collection. Each icon is given its own space for your group to enjoy and appreciate. Take the opportunity to look, observe and discuss as a group, coming to a conclusion about what makes these objects icons of the collection.

Asian and Indian Art Galleries

Our collection begins in the Neolithic period and moves forward to present day. Learn about Buddhism, Hinduism and much more through the works of art and objects in the Asian and Indian galleries. What is the oldest object you can find in this section? What is the most recent object you can find? Compare two objects from different time periods and discuss any similarities or differences.

Ancient World and Near East TBD



Special Exhibitions

You will find Special Exhibitions throughout the museum. Ask a staff member or volunteer about what might be on view and get advice as to if the exhibition would be appropriate for your group's age level and interests.



Look for the Touch & Learn Stations throughout the art museum. These interactive stations encourage visitor participation and invite a hands on approach to learning about works of art in the galleries.

Look for the magnifying glass symbol throughout the museum map to discover which galleries have Touch & Learn Stations.