

People in Art

Age of Campers: 5-7

Lesson Overview:

The tour focuses on artworks that include people and focuses more specifically on gesture, expression, and narrative.

Featured Artworks:

- 1) *Winter Scene in Brooklyn*, Francis Guy, 1819-1820, 97.13, American Identities
- 2) *The Pic-Nic*, Thomas Cole, 1846, 67.205.2, American Identities
- 3) *The Reprimand: Ah! You Naughty Fawn, You Have Been Eating the Flowers Again*, Arthur Fitzwilliam Tait, 1852, 81.11, American Identities

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Looking at the big picture: Campers observe and discuss paintings focusing on the people and their environment.
- 2) Comparing pictures: Campers compare and contrast the settings, moods, and people in each artwork.
- 3) Focusing on the details: Campers focus on the figures by examining gestures, poses, expressions, clothing, etc. to discuss each person's background/characteristics and his/her role in the painting.
- 4) Connecting art to everyday: Campers discuss the objects/clothing/setting and relate it to what they have already experienced/experience everyday.

Materials:

- 1) Boards
- 2) Pencils
- 3) Worksheets
- 4) Picnic basket filled with fake food, blanket, culinary utensils, napkins, Frisbee

Introduction:

Hello everyone. Welcome to the Brooklyn Museum. My name is Victoria/Deshane and this is my partner, Deshane/Victoria.

Has anyone ever been to the Brooklyn Museum before? Has anyone been to any other museums before?

Can anyone tell me what some of the rules are when you visit the museum?

Don't touch the artwork.

Right, we don't touch the artwork.

Why don't you touch the artwork?

Because you'll dirty/destroy the art.

Correct. We have oils in our fingers. Rub your fingers by your ear. Do you hear that sound? That's the sound of oil. The oil in your fingers will dirty the artwork. Instead, we touch the art with our eyes. Can everyone practice touching the ceiling with your eyes.

Now, touch the floor with your eyes. Lastly, touch the person to your right with your eyes. Good job!

What are some other rules for visiting in the museum?

No eating. No yelling. No running. No hitting each other.

Great responses. We use our inside voices, walking feet, and we keep our hands to ourselves. Now, that we've gone over the rules, let's talk about art.

Do any of you make art?

Yes

What kind of art do you like to make?

Drawing, sculpture, painting

Has anyone ever drawn/painted a picture with a person in it?

Yes

Who did you draw? Or who would you draw?

My mom, family, friends, superheroes

That's cool. Well, today we're going to look at artworks that have people. Some of the artworks include people the artists knew. The name of the tour is people in art. We will be looking at different paintings that tell stories with people in it. In the Brooklyn Museum, we have art from all over the world, from Asia, from Europe, and from Africa. But today, we're going to be focusing on three paintings that were created in the United States and are on display in the American Art Galleries. So everyone, please get up and stand in two lines. Follow me as we head upstairs to the fifth floor.

Winter Scene:

Everyone, take a minute to look at this picture. We're going to give you partners. Discuss with him/her what you see in the painting....Now, let's discuss as a whole group.

What do you see in this picture?

People, chickens, horses, wood, houses, a sleigh, snow, a person who slipped on the snow

What time of the year is it in this painting?

Winter

What do you see that makes you say that it is winter?

Snow, sleigh

What do people usually do in the winter?

Sled, shovel, sleep

What are the people doing in the painting?

Feeding the roosters, getting wood, talking, laughing

What type of people do you see in the painting?

Farmers, businessmen, etc.

[Point to each vignette and discuss what each person is doing.]

[People by the wood] *What are the people doing here?*

Cutting wood, stacking wood.

What would you hear if you were standing here?

Sound of sawing wood

[Man on horse carriage] *What do you see here?*

A man sitting on a carriage. A horse pulling a carriage.

What sound would you hear here?

Wheels turning *Horseshoe clacking*

[Two men talking] *What are the two men here doing?*

Talking

What do you think they might be talking about?

Money, family, secrets, business

What sound would hear here?

People talking

[Man slipped by ice] *What do you think is happening here?*

A man slipped on the ice. The other man is laughing at him. The dog is sniffing the man who fell.

[Man by coal] *What is he doing here?*

Shoveling coal and putting it a cart

[Chicken] *If you stood here, what sounds would you hear?*

Cluck cluck

[Dog] *What about here?*

Woof woof

Great responses. Next, I want you to take all of the sounds we heard. Remember them. Choose one sound. And when I raise my sound meter, I want you to get louder. When I lower it, I want you to get quieter. Let's practice first. Do I have any volunteers? Make the sound of the chicken. Make the sound of the dogs. Make the sound of the wood sawing. Make the sound of the people talking. Now, I want everyone to participate.

Raise sound meter.

Great job. Did you hear all of those sounds? That is what you would hear if you were standing in this place.

Now, look at the background. What kind of landscape do they live in? Urban or rural? Big city or small town?

Urban, small town.

What do you see that makes you say that?

There are lots of houses, but not as many buildings and people as New York City.

Good job. This picture was painted by Francis Guy and the name of the painting is actually *Winter Scene in Brooklyn*. Francis Guy painted this in 1820 one morning, almost

200 years ago. This is the view he saw from his window.



Now, we're going to pass around a picture of current day Brooklyn. Notice how much has changed since the 1800s.

All of the people in this painting were real people who lived in this town.

What are the houses in the painting made of?

Wood

In 1820, people built their houses with wood.

What is your house made of today?

Wood, bricks, plaster

What other uses, aside from building houses, did the townspeople have for wood in the winter time?

To heat homes, fireplaces, to cook

Today we use other methods to heat up our homes. For example, we use oil, gas or electricity to heat up our homes and we have heaters.

Here's a little trivia about the actual painting: Although you can't really see, this painting used to be much longer. Before, the museum holding this painting caught on fire and parts of the painting were burned and lost.

Now that we've looked at a painting of different groups of people doing different things in winter at Brooklyn, let's look at another painting of different groups of people doing different things. However, the landscape will be different from *Winter Scene in Brooklyn*. As we walk to the next painting, think of something people do when it's nice and warm outside.

The Pic-Nic:

Take a minute to look at this painting.

What is this a painting of?

A picnic.

Right. This is a painting by the artist Thomas Cole. And it is actually called "The Pic-Nic."

So, what is a picnic? Define it for me.

A meal eaten outdoors.

Correct, it's a pleasure excursion where everyone brings food. A picnic is a gathering, social event. A movable outdoor feast.

I want you to imagine that you're at this picnic.

What time of day is it?

Noontime

What do you see that makes you say that?

The sky is blue, pink-ish, sunset

What season do you think it is?

Fall

What do you see that makes you say that it is Fall?

Yellow, green, and orange leaves

Compared to the Winter Scene, how does the landscape differ?

It's fall here, while it was winter in the other painting. There's snow in the Winter Scene and colorful leaves here. It's sunny here and cloudy in the Winter Scene. There are many trees here while the Winter Scene has many houses. This is painting is of nature while the Winter Scene is a painting of a town.

How are the people different?

The people here look relaxed and calm while the people in *The Winter Scene* are doing work or playing around. The people in this picture look richer.

Look at the objects in the picture. What did the people bring on the picnic?

A basket, blanket, food, hats, guitar

Now, let's look at the different groups of people.

[Man with guitar] *If you were standing here, what would you hear?*

Music; strumming

[Boat] *What would you hear here?*

Water paddling; splashing

What would you smell here?

Fresh water

[People talking] *What about here?*

people talking

[Children] *What do you think the children are talking about?*

Games, food

[Fire] *What sound would you smell here?*

Smoke, food cooking, burning metal

What would it sound like if you stood here?

Fire cracking

Right. Let's make the sound of fire now. I want everyone to take your fingers and snap them. And clack with your tongues too.

Now, keep those sounds in mind. Just like we did in the *Winter Scene*, I am going to use my sound meter. What do you hear here? (Raise sound meter. Lower sound meter.) Great! Now, everyone choose one sound. We're going to make the sounds that you would hear if you were sitting in this picnic.

What facial expressions/postures do you see that makes them look joyous, etc.?

They are smiling, laughing, sitting calmly

Thomas Cole painted this to show the perfect world – where people and nature can live peacefully, side by side. Picnics are peaceful interactions between humans and nature. And it's the human spirit that makes the meal special.

Now that we've examined the painting let's imagine we're on our own picnic. I have with me a picnic basket.

Can anyone guess what's inside it?

Apples, banana, blanket, Frisbee, ball, forks

(take out and show what I have in my basket)

What are some other things you would bring on your picnic?

Soccer ball, football, board games, kite, book

What activities would you do?

Barbecued, played soccer, swam in the lake, running, play tag, eat

Where would you have your picnic?

At the park, in the parking lot, in my backyard, at the beach

Excellent answers.

Do the people dress like the people today? If not, what time period do you think they came from?

No. The 1800s.

What would you wear today if you went on a picnic?

Shorts, T-shirt, sundress

Now that we've seen two paintings with multiple stories - different groups of people doing things separately from the other groups of people, let's look at a painting that focuses on only one story/person. As we walk to the next painting, think of an animal you would see in the woods.

The Reprimand: Ah! You Naughty Fawn, You Have Been Eating the Flowers Again:

Take a minute to look at this painting. Discuss with a partner what you see in this painting....Now, as a whole group, let's discuss together.

What do you see in this painting?

A deer, a girl, flowers, etc.

Look at the landscape.

Describe the setting - where that the picture takes place.

It looks like a forest in the back, and she's standing in a church.

What do you see that makes you say that?

There are flowers, green plants, a deer, trees, stained glass, Holy Water, Robe

What time of the year do you think it is?

Fall

What do you see that makes you say that?

The leaves are orange/changing colors.

What time of the day is it?

Morning, afternoon, or night.

What do you see that makes you say that?

It is dark outside. Foggy. Could be sun rising, no sun anymore, just a foggy day.

How does this place look different from the Winter Scene? The Pic-Nic?

It is not in a town like the Winter Scene. But it's not in the middle of the forest by a lake like the Pic-Nic. It's a combination of the two. She's standing on an open porch.

Those were all fantastic answers. Now, let's look at the girl.

How old does she look?

Around eight years old.

What do you see that makes you say that?

She looks small. Her face looks young. Her dress looks old.

She is actually a child. This is a portrait of Mary Elizabeth Osborn, the daughter of the artist's friend. In this painting, she is six years old.

Does she dress like children do today? If not, what time period do you think she came from?

No. She looks fancier. Maybe the 1800s.

How does she resemble or differ from the people in the Winter Scene? The people in the Pic-Nic?

She looks richer than the people in the Winter Scene. She looks like the children from the Pic-Nic - she has the same hat as the people in the Pic-Nic.

I want you to make the same gesture she is making.

How do you feel when you do this?

Mad. Like I'm disciplining someone.

Have you ever made this posture before?

No, but my mom does it to me all the time.

Does the girl in the painting look happy? Sad? Angry? Look at her facial expressions and gestures.

Angry.

What do you see that makes you say that?

Her eyes look angry. She's glaring at the deer.
Why do you think she's angry? Who do you think she's angry?

She's angry at the deer because it ate her flowers.
Can anyone point to me where the flowers came from?

points to the left side in the forest

What does the deer look like?

Sad. Guilty.

Those were all great responses. You are correct. She is angry at the deer because it ate her flowers. In fact, the title of this painting is "The Reprimand: Ah! You Naughty Fawn, You Have Been Eating the Flowers Again." This is a painting by Arthur Fitzwilliam Tait. He painted this picture as a gift to his friend, John Osborn, a wine importer. Now, I'm going to give you a sheet of paper with one box on it. I want you to draw what you think happens after this painting.

Can someone repeat the instructions to me?

Has everyone finished? First, we'll collect the boards and pencils. Now, would anyone like to share?

Conclusion:

So, today we went on a tour through which gallery? Which country?
America!

Good job!

Now, can anyone tell me one thing you learned from the tour?

What Brooklyn looked like in the 1800s; the different sounds you can hear at the Pic-Nic

Those were terrific responses. I'm so glad that you all learned something. And with that, let's now head downstairs. Thank you for coming on the People in Art tour. I hope you had a wonderful time.

Now, form two lines so that we can go down to the lobby in an orderly fashion.

This is the end of our tour we hoped you enjoyed the tour.