

National Gallery of Art



Field Trips

Top 10 Things to Know Before You Go

[Click for grades K-3](#) | [Click for grades 4-12](#)

Grades K – 3

1. What is the National Gallery of Art?

This is the National Gallery of Art.

East Building

West Building

Located on the National Mall, these two buildings—the West Building and the East Building—house a collection that includes more than 200,000 works of art...

from **early art** in the West Building...



Judith Leyster, *Self-Portrait*, c. 1630



...to **modern art** in the East Building.



Jackson Pollock, *Number 1, 1950 (Lavender Mist)*, 1950



The National Gallery welcomes more than four million visitors from around the world every year...including you! Welcome!



2. What's inside the museum?

Thousands of original works of art are on view.

Among them you'll find:

- Paintings
- Sculptures
- Drawings and prints
- Photographs
- Decorative arts

**Any one might be ten
or *hundreds* of years old.**



Pietro Magni, *The Reading Girl (La Leggitrice)*, model 1856, carved 1861



Jean Honoré Fragonard, *Young Girl Reading*, c. 1769



Carrie Mae Weems, *After Manet*, 2002, printed 2015

3. Press pause

Many museum visitors look at a work of art for only about **seven seconds**.



George Bellows, *New York*, 1911



Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, 1667/1670



Auguste Renoir, *Pont Neuf, Paris*, 1872



Winslow Homer, *Breezing Up (A Fair Wind)*, 1873-1876



Willem Claesz Heda, *Banquet Piece with Mince Pie*, 1635

On a field trip, you'll have the time and space to explore **four to five works of art** for much longer...



...with the help of a **docent** who will guide your looking.

4. The art of looking

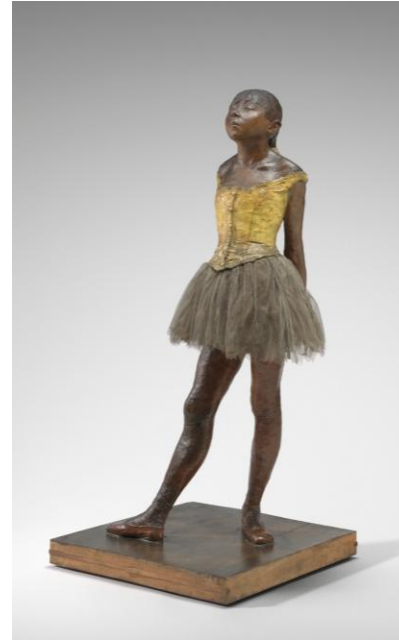
Looking takes time.



Edouard Manet, *The Railway*, 1873

Let your eyes wander
over the entire surface
of a painting.

**Walk around a
sculpture to view it
from all sides.**



Edgar Degas, *Little Dancer Aged Fourteen*, 1878-1881

What do you see?

Your ideas matter.
Share them with your friends and teachers.



5. Any questions?

You'll want to know...

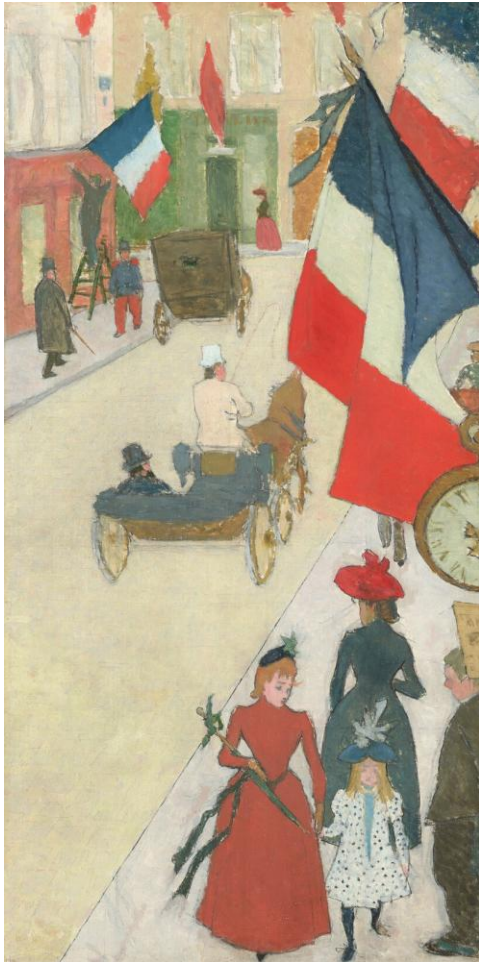
- Who?
- What?
- When?
- Where?

Works of art can tell us stories about the past.



Jacques-Louis David, *The Emperor Napoleon in His Study at the Tuileries*, 1812

But also ask...



Pierre Bonnard, *Paris, Rue de Parme on Bastille Day*, 1890

- Why?
- I wonder...
- I imagine...

You might find that questions give you **new ideas**.

6. Try something new

And have fun, too!

There are many ways to experience and understand works of art.

On a field trip—or anytime—you might try drawing or movement when looking at a work of art. Here's one way...



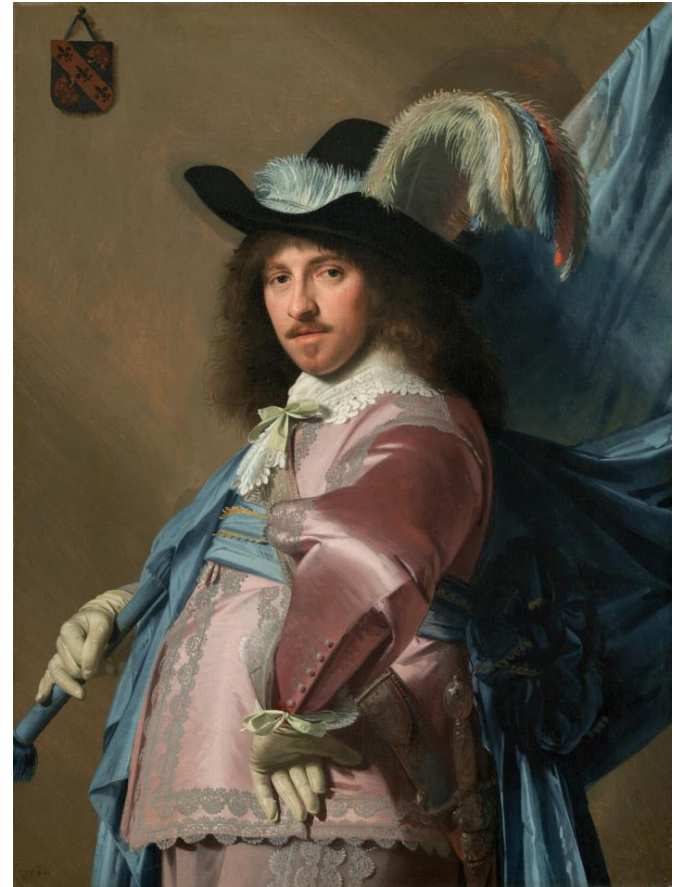
Strike a pose

Choose a character and copy their pose. Got it?

Now...

- Imagine how that character might be feeling.
- What might he or she say?

Try this with a group of friends, too.



Johannes Cornelisz Verspronck, *Andries Stilte as a Standard Bearer*, 1640

**7. Every picture tells a
story**

In fact, works of art tell many stories...



Jan Steen, *The Dancing Couple*, 1663

...about artists,
history, and
people...

...as well as the
stories we
imagine.

8. Be inspired

**Be inspired by your
visit to look for, learn
about, and create your
own works of art.**



9. Help keep the art safe

Look but don't touch.
Oils from your hands can
damage works of art and
some works are more
fragile than they look, so
**please don't touch the
art.** Please stay at least
an arm's length from
works of art and walls.



You will see security officers throughout the museum. You can identify them by their uniform. The job of the security officers is to keep visitors and the works of art safe.



**10. You're always welcome at
the National Gallery of Art**

We hope you'll want to visit with your **friends and family**, too.



To find out more...



Leonardo da Vinci, *Ginevra de' Benci*, c. 1474/1478,

...ask a family member to visit
our website at **nga.gov**

**We hope you enjoy your
visit!**

Grades 4 – 12

1. What is the National Gallery of Art?

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West Building

Located on the National Mall, these two buildings—the neoclassical West Building and the modern East Building—house a collection that includes more than 200,000 works of art...

from **early Renaissance** in the West Building...



Rogier van der Weyden, *Portrait of a Lady*, c. 1460



...to **modern art** in the East Building.



Jackson Pollock, *Number 1, 1950 (Lavender Mist)*, 1950



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Among them you'll find:

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**Any one might be ten
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Pietro Magni, *The Reading Girl (La Leggitrice)*, model 1856, carved 1861



Jean Honoré Fragonard, *Young Girl Reading*, c. 1769



Carrie Mae Weems, *After Manet*, 2002, printed 2015

3. Less is more

Many museum visitors look at a work of art for only about **seven seconds**.



George Bellows *New York, 1911*



Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, 1667/1670



Auguste Renoir, *Pont Neuf, Paris*, 1872



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Willem Claesz Heda, *Banquet Piece with Mince Pie*, 1635

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4. The art of looking

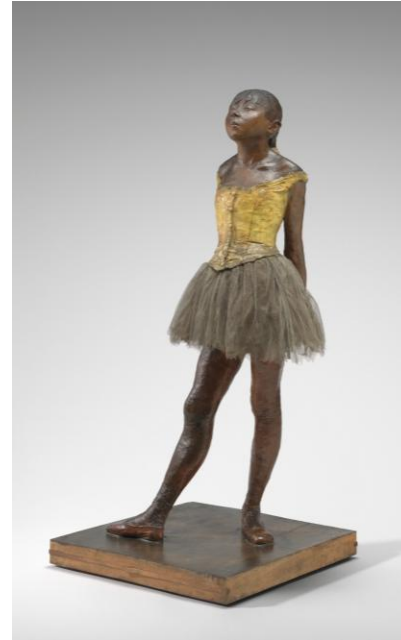
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What do you see?

Your ideas matter.
Share them with your fellow students and teachers.



5. Any questions?

You'll want to know...

- Who?
- What?
- When?
- Where?

Original works of art can be important primary **sources of information** about the past.



Jacques-Louis David, *The Emperor Napoleon in His Study at the Tuileries*, 1812

But also ask...



Pierre Bonnard, *Paris, Rue de Parme on Bastille Day*, 1890

- Why?
- I wonder...
- What if...?

You might find that questions generate **new ideas and interpretations.**

6. Try something new



And have fun, too!

**There are many ways to experience
and understand works of art.**

**On a field trip—or anytime—you might try
creative writing, drawing, or movement in
response to a work of art. Here's one way..**

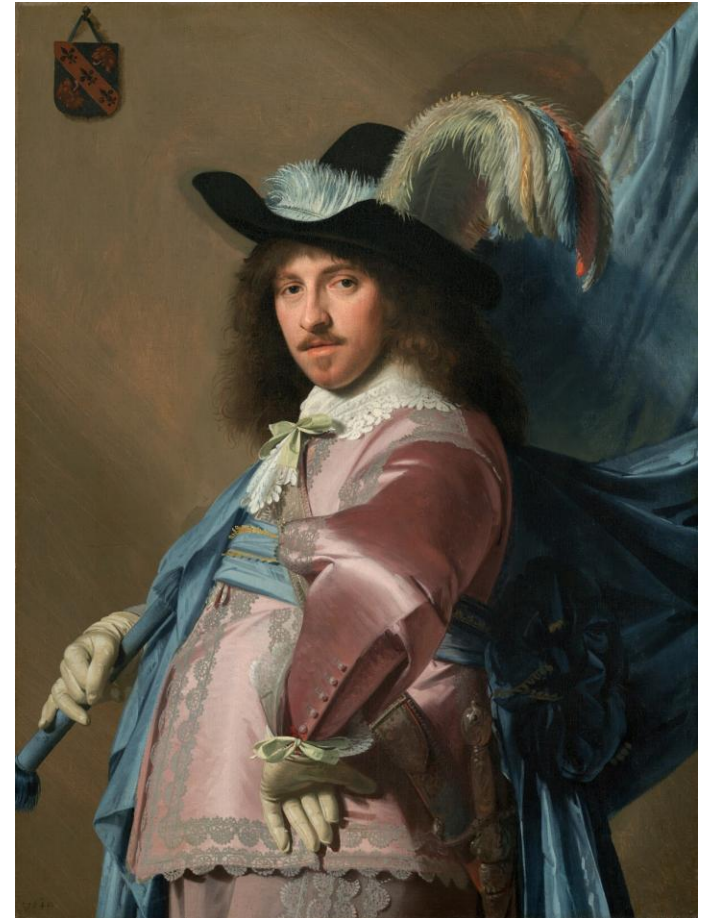
Strike a pose

Choose a character in a painting or sculpture and recreate his or her pose. Got it?

Now...

- Imagine how that character might be feeling.
- What might he or she say?

Try this with a group of friends, too—it's called a *tableau vivant*.



Johannes Cornelisz Verspronck, *Andries Stilte as a Standard Bearer*, 1640

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To find out more...



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...including information about films, concerts, exhibitions, and events for families, visit us at **[nga.gov](https://www.nga.gov)**

**We hope you enjoy your
visit!**