Finding Your Way at the DMA: Tips for a Fun Family Visit

**Less is more.** Make your visit child-size and focus on just a few works of art that spark your child’s curiosity. Don’t feel like you need to see everything in one day. General admission at the Museum is always free and you can return again and again!

**Keep your distance.** The art won’t bite, but you still need to keep a safe distance (three feet is great).

**Make it an adventure.** Pass the reins to the kids and follow their interest! Let them choose where to go and what to see, and then give their imaginations a workout. You might search for favorite colors or animals, act out a story you see in the artwork, or play a game of I Spy.

**Take a break.** Little legs tire out easily in this big museum. Feel free to take a seat on a bench or even the floor as you spend time with a work of art. If your child is feeling extra wiggly, go to the Center for Creative Connections and visit Arturo’s Nest, a “please touch” space where kids can crawl, climb, and play.

**Meet Arturo!** Arturo, the DMA’s family mascot, is based on a ceramic vessel from Peru that’s more than 1,000 years old. The artist was probably inspired by the colorful macaws of South America. Look for this parrot-shaped container in the Ancient Art of the Americas Galleries on Level 4.

Do you love cats? Then this is the purr-fect tour for you!
Help me find works of art inspired by our frisky feline friends.
LEVEL 4, AMERICAN ART GALLERIES

The Peaceable Kingdom
Edward Hicks
About 1846–1847

Calling all cats! Look for a painting with different species of cats living together in harmony.

Which animals are wild and which ones are tame? Wild animals usually live in the wilderness while tame animals live in a domestic setting or on a farm. In this painting, both wild and tame animals live peacefully together. Artist Edward Hicks titled this work The Peaceable Kingdom. Why do you think he chose that name?

Edward Hicks was a Quaker pastor who preached sermons on peace and goodwill. These same themes greatly influenced his art, and he painted this particular scene from a Bible verse in the book of Isaiah more than 100 times. If you look closely, you can see William Penn and other Pennsylvania settlers meeting with Native Americans in the background.

LEVEL 3, AFRICAN ART GALLERIES

Sword ornament in the form of a lion
Ghana
Mid-20th century

Are you ready for a cat-venture? Let’s journey through Africa and find the King of the Jungle!

What material is this regal lion made out of? The shiny gold lets us know that someone very important must have owned this object. It was used as decoration on a ceremonial sword that belonged to an Asante chief. Imagine this king of the cats come to life. How would it move and sound? Act it out!

Traditional proverbs and the visual arts are closely linked in Asante culture, and this sword ornament most likely embodies this verse: “If the lion has no intention to attack, it will not show its teeth.” With his bared teeth and protruding tongue, this lion seems to be on the prowl and warns viewers to heed the words of the chief. Gold regalia such as this sword ornament also signifies the bravery, strength, and prestige of the wearer.

LEVEL 3 LANDING

Pair of guardian lions
Nepal
1815

Halt! Who goes there? Be on the lookout for two big cats standing guard.

How would you feel if you came upon these lions in the mountains? These snow lion statues were originally created to protect a Buddhist temple in Nepal. What did the artist do to make the lions look fierce? The greenish color of the metal tells us that the statues stood outside in the rain and snow. Bronze is usually a warm golden color but turns green when left out in the elements—like the Statue of Liberty!

The snow lion is the national emblem of the country of Tibet and is represented on the Tibetan flag as a white lion with a turquoise mane. The snow lion is thought to be the king of the beasts, and several Tibetan folk heroes were said to have been raised by a snow lioness. In Tibetan art, the snow lion is often shown as a protector of Buddha.

LEVEL 2, EUROPEAN ART GALLERIES

The Visit
Alfred Stevens
Before 1869

Here, kitty, kitty! Can you find the cat hiding in this beautiful room? Meow!

The cat isn’t the only character in this painting. Look carefully at the two women’s expressions. What are they feeling? What might they say? Imagine you are the cat in this scene and make up a story about what is happening around you.

Alfred Stevens was a Belgian painter and art collector who spent much of his life in Paris. He took an early interest in japonisme, the influence of Japanese culture on Western fashion and art. Look at the fabrics and styles of dress that the women are wearing, as well as the screen in the background, for evidence of japonisme in The Visit.