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!

**Make it an adventure.** Pass the reins to the kids and follow their interests! 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 is 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.

You don’t have to be an Olympian to have a winning time at the DMA! Here’s your golden opportunity to check out some perfectly precious metal.
If you could participate in ANY competition, what would you win a gold medal—or olive wreath—for? Sports, singing, art making—it could be anything!

DID YOU KNOW: Gold doesn't react with water or air, meaning it never rusts or tarnishes. That's why so many of these gold pieces—despite being hundreds and thousands of years old—look so good!

WREATH
Greece, 4th century B.C.E.
Level 2, Green Classical Galleries

This isn't a medal, no, this is much older, it looks like an olive branch, but rounder . . . and gold-er! The Olympics began thousands of years ago in ancient Greece. Athletes competed in running, boxing, wrestling, chariot racing, and more, but instead of earning a gold medal like today, winners received a wreath made out of real olive leaves to wear on their head like a crown. This piece was made to look like a real olive wreath and might have decorated a statue of a Greek god.

DID YOU KNOW: Gold is a very malleable metal, which means it is a little soft and easy to bend, making it popular for fine jewelry making.

MARRIAGE NECKLACE
India, Tamil Nadu, Nattukottai Chettiar caste, late 19th century
Level 3, Owsley Galleries of South Asian Art

To find this next piece, LEVEL 3 you should check for art in black and gold to wear 'round your neck! How do you think it would feel to wear this necklace? Would it be heavy or light? A special necklace like this would be given to a bride on her wedding day, and after she wore it that one time, she might never wear it again. The four handlike ornaments represent the hands of the two people being married and are decorated with tiny designs of lions and deer.

Do you have anything that you only wear for special occasions? How do you feel when you wear that special item? Many of the statues in this gallery are wearing jewelry. Try to find ones wearing necklaces, earrings, bracelets, or all three!

CROWN WITH DEITY FIGURES
Peru, north coast or highlands, Chavin style, Early Horizon, c. 400–300 B.C.E.
Level 4, Ancient Art of the Americas

Look left and look right, look up and look down, This piece of gold is a wonderful crown! What animals can you find hiding in this crown? The Chavin people (from what is now Peru) believed in a number of different gods, and this crown shows one of the most important ones: the Staff God. The Staff God is shown with a mouth like a jaguar, talons like a harpy eagle, and a tall staff in each hand. Serpents and caymans (a type of alligator) also lurk in the crown's design. Imagine you're a queen or king designing your own crown. What kind of pictures would you put on it?

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THE GOLDEN FLEECE RING
Giovanni Corvaja (Italian, born 1971), 2008
Level 4, Form/Unformed exhibition

This artwork is small—if you blink, you might miss it! Look for a piece of jewelry for your finger. What is it? The name of this ring comes from an ancient Greek story about a hero who had to sneak into a garden guarded by a dragon to steal the fleece of a winged golden ram. To make his ‘golden fleece,’ this artist stretched gold wire to be five times thinner than a piece of hair, and then spent hours and hours weaving it to give it a fluffy, woolly look.

Feeling inspired? Draw yourself decked out in glittery gold!

DID YOU KNOW: Gold has the OPPOSITE texture (or feeling) of sheep's wool, but this artist made it seem like it's the same! Can you find more texture opposites in this gallery? (Remember the Museum's golden rule: look, but don't touch!) Here are a few to get you started. Can you find something that is the opposite of soft? Smooth? Solid? Straight?