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 the parrot-shaped container in the Ancient Art of the Americas Galleries on Level 4.

Calling all dog lovers! Help me sniff out works of art featuring our favorite four-legged friends for a paws-itively great day at the DMA.
LEVEL 1

AMERICAN ART GALLERIES

Good boy! There’s a good reason dogs are known as “man’s best friend.”
What does this dog’s expression tell you about his feelings for his owner, the Captain?
Just like this pup is loyal to his owner, Captain Pratt wanted others to know that he was loyal to his country, and so he chose to wear his military uniform for his portrait. Look closely and you will see that Captain Pratt holds a piece of paper in his left hand titled “Inspection Returns.”

LEVEL 2

AMERICAN ART GALLERIES

Now search for a pup that looks dog-tired. Dogs can say a lot without ever barking—just look at their ears and tails!
How do you think this dog is feeling? What about its owner?
Use your finger to trace in the air how you think the artist moved his paintbrush while painting Miss Dorothy and her dog. Shamrock (remember not to touch the painting!)
Did you make long, fluid lines or short, jerky lines?
The long, flowing brushstrokes and darker colors make this painting feel quiet, calm, and perhaps a little sad.

LEVEL 3

INDONESIA GALLERIES

Beware of dog! Their bark may be worse than their bite, but these two creatures certainly look strong and fierce. This is a pair of asos—a mythical animal that is a mix of a dog and a dragon.
Which parts of these creatures remind you of a dog? Which parts look more like a dragon?
Both dogs and dragons guard and protect. For the Kayan people of Borneo, asos protected the most important people in their society. Take the pose of these animals and see how long you can stand guard!

LEVEL 4

AMERICAN ART GALLERIES

The woman in this portrait is Miss Dorothy Quincy Roosevelt, cousin of President Theodore Roosevelt. As a teenager, Dorothy visited the White House often for parties and events. This painting was made by artist John White Alexander at the request of Dorothy’s mother. By portraying Miss Dorothy in profile and with a muted color palette, Alexander seems to be more concerned with evoking a certain mood rather than painting a typical portrait.

LEVEL 2

EUROPEAN ART GALLERIES

Home is where your dog is, and this home is about to welcome two new babies to the family.
What clues does the artist give to show that these babies are important?
Look carefully and you’ll notice that all the adults in the painting and even the dog are looking at or reaching toward the babies. This painting tells the story of a shepherd who found two babies—Romulus and Remus—in the woods. They were abandoned by their family and had been living with a she-wolf who took care of them. Can you find the she-wolf in the distance?

LEVEL 3

INDONESIA GALLERIES

Asos have been found on doorways, utensils, bowls, and even baby carriers, always on guard to protect their owners from pesky spirits.

LEVEL 4

AMERICAN ART GALLERIES

According to Italian legend, Romulus and Remus grew up to become great leaders and decided to found a city; however, they quarreled over where the city should be located. Romulus killed his brother and then named the new city after himself—Rome. Artist Nicolas Mignard chose to illustrate a poignant moment in the well-known legend when the babies, still innocent, are welcomed by their adoptive family.