

Ten questions to Ask Students about Art

Get the dialogue going, and let their ideas lead the way...

1. What do you see?
2. What did you see, hear or sense that made you say that?
3. Do you see more? What more can you find?
4. How does this work of art make you feel?
5. If you were the artist, how would you have made this? What different materials and processes would you use?
6. Does anything you see in this work of art remind you of something else you have seen or experienced?
7. What is this work of art about? Is there a message that goes beyond the subject matter?
8. What is the title of this artwork? How does the artwork relate to the title? If you could rename the artwork, what would your new title be?
9. Compare and contrast this work of art with:
 - another work of art in the Collection
 - another work of art you find while researching in a book or on the Internet
 - another work of art in a famous museum
 - an illustration you find in a book
 - a current events article
 - a story, poem, song or novel you have read, heard or written
 - an event in history
 - a famous person or someone you know
 - something you would find in nature
 - a modern or ancient invention
 - geometry, algebra or calculus
 - Anything! The possibilities for comparison are endless!
10. How does this work of art relate to you?

Ten Ways to Use Art In Your Classroom

A work of art is only the beginning...

1. A work of art can be a story (poem, play, song) starter.
2. A work of art can be a take off point for research.
3. A work of art can begin a discussion about history, society and culture.
4. A work of art can create a connection to current events, a social issue or a political theme.
5. A work of art can be a point of comparison to other people, places and times.
6. A work of art can inspire a calculation, scientific investigation or technological discovery.
7. A work of art can improve skills in looking and seeing.
8. A work of art can teach about people.
9. A work of art can be beautiful, ugly, challenging, inspiring or confrontational.
A work of art can stimulate thinking.
10. A work of art can be an inspiration to make more original works of art.



One Dozen Questions About Contemporary Art

Contemporary art brings to light many issues which span the history of art. Use these questions as a take off point for discussions with your students! *(Please note that some of these questions are more appropriate for upper level grades and some are appropriate for all levels.)*

1. Does contemporary art reflect society, individuals, or particular groups in society? Or, all of these?
 2. Can art that doesn't last really be considered art?
 3. Does art have to be beautiful? Why or why not?
 4. What does art communicate? Should art have a message?
 5. Is popular culture art?
 6. How has the role of the artist in the world changed over time?
 7. What is the relationship between tradition and contemporary art?
 8. What is the relationship between technology and contemporary art?
 9. Should some contemporary art be censored?
 10. Why do artists make art?
 11. How is contemporary art different than other movements in art history?
- Thinking about these issues may lead to the broadest question of all:
12. *What makes it art?*

Ten Artist's Quotations

A good take off point...

1. "Creation is a patient search."

Le Corbusier, architect

2. "A man draws with his brains and not with his hands."

Michelangelo, painter, sculptor, architect

3. "The element of risk is part of the challenge of art."

Robert Blair, painter

4. "No amount of skillful invention can replace the essential element of imagination."

Edward Hopper, painter

5. "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up."

Pablo Picasso, painter, sculptor

6. "Art is in harmony parallel with nature."

Paul Cezanne, painter

7. "Every good painter paints what he is."

Jackson Pollock, painter

8. "Creativity takes courage."

Henri Matisse, painter

9. "Art should be something that liberates the soul, provokes the imagination and encourages people to go further. It celebrates humanity..."

Keith Haring, painter, sculptor

10. "Sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

Lewis Carroll, author



James A. Michener Art Museum
138 South Pine Street Doylestown, PA 18901
215-340-9800 • www.michenerartmuseum.org

Top Ten from the Michener Art Museum

What makes the Michener great...

Walter Emerson Baum (1884 – 1956) • *The Narrows, 1936*

One of the few Pennsylvania Impressionists born in Bucks County, Walter Baum painted the Pennsylvania landscape in the styles of Impressionism and American Realism. He was one of the founders of the Allentown Museum of Art, the Kline-Baum Art School in Allentown and the Bucks County Traveling Art Gallery.

The Bucks County Prison

The massive stone walls and warden's house that make up the core of the Michener Art Museum today began as the Bucks County prison in 1884.

Daniel Garber (1880 – 1958) • *A Wooded Watershed, 1926*

Daniel Garber's *Wooded Watershed*, painted for Pennsylvania's Sesquicentennial, is the largest painting in the Museum.

Thomas Hicks (1823-1891) • *Portrait of Edward Hicks, 1836*

Thomas Hicks was best known for his naturalistic portraits, many of which depicted celebrities including Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, and Charles Dickens.

Paul Keene (b. 1920) • *Street Quartet, n.d.*

In his work, Keene has created new icons of black urban life in his anonymous portraits of jazz musicians. He has documented the movement and vitality of city life.

William Lathrop (1859 – 1938) • *Chilmark Moor, 1930*

William Langson Lathrop helped to establish the Pennsylvania Impressionist community of artists soon after he moved into Phillips' Mill in New Hope in 1899.

James A. Michener (1907 – 1997) • *Bucks County Office*

James Michener was a Pulitzer Prize-winning author of novels, short fiction, and nonfiction, much of which was based on his extensive research and travel. He is considered one of the most prolific and popular writers of the 20th century. The James A. Michener Art Museum is named after him.

George Nakashima (1905 – 1990) • *The Nakashima Reading Room*

George Nakashima was a master woodworker and furniture maker whose spiritual mission was to bring out the character of his wood. The George Nakashima Reading Room was designed by Mira Naskashima-Yarnell in 1993. It is a highlight of the James A. Michener Art Museum.

Edward Redfield (1869 – 1965) • *The Burning of Center Bridge, 1923*

Among the New Hope Impressionists, Edward Willis Redfield was the most decorated.

Ben Solowey (1900 – 1978) • *Rae Seated, 1935*

Ben Solowey had an international reputation for his canvases, watercolors and drawings in a wide variety of genres and styles, yet was part of no school or movement.



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Top Ten Buildings

Significant architectural works...

Angkor Wat • Angkor, Cambodia • early 12th century

Angkor Wat is a temple that was built for King Suryavarman II as the state temple in his capital city.

Brunelleschi's Dome • Florence, Italy • 1420-1436

The distinctive dome of the Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore of Florence, Italy, was built by Renaissance master Filippo Brunelleschi. The octagonal design was ingenious and unprecedented.

Chartres Cathedral • Chartres, France • 1220 - 1260

Chartres Cathedral is located about 50 miles from Paris, France. It's exemplary Gothic design includes flying buttresses, rising spires and delicate stained glass windows.

The Chrysler Building • New York, New York • 1928-1930

The Chrysler Building is a skyscraper and distinctive symbol of New York City, standing 1,046 feet high. The Chrysler Building was the first structure in the world to surpass the 1,000-foot threshold.

The Dome of the Rock • Jerusalem • 687-691

The Dome of the Rock is a notable Islamic shrine in what Muslims call the Noble Sanctuary and which Jews and Christians call the Temple Mount.

Fallingwater • Bear Run, Pennsylvania • 1935

Fallingwater, also known as the Edgar J. Kaufmann Sr. Residence, is an organically designed modernist house built over a waterfall by American architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

The Pantheon • Rome, Italy • 125 AD

The word Pantheon derives from the Greek, meaning "Temple of all the Gods". It was built in Rome as a temple to the seven deities of the seven planets in the state religion of Ancient Rome.

The Parthenon • Athens, Greece • 5th Century BCE

The Parthenon is a temple of Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom. It was built on the Acropolis in Athens. It is a fine example of classical Greek architecture.

St. Basil's Cathedral • Moscow, Russia • 1555-1561

St. Basil's Cathedral is a multi-tented church on the Red Square in Moscow traditionally perceived as symbolic of the unique position of Russia between Europe and Asia.

The Taj Mahal • Agra, India • 1631-1634

The Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan commissioned the construction of the Taj Mahal as a mausoleum for his favorite wife. It is made entirely out of white marble.



Top Ten Artists

Grades Four through Six

Paul Cézanne (1839-1906) • Mont Sainte Victoire, 1900

Paul Cézanne was a painter whose interest in design, color, composition, form and draughtsmanship paved the way for modern art in the 20th century.

Marc Chagall (1887-1985) • I and the Village, 1911

Marc Chagall was a Russian-Jewish painter born in Belaruse. Chagall took inspiration from Belarusian folk-life, and portrayed many Biblical themes reflecting his Jewish heritage.

Maurits Cornelis Escher (1898-1972) • Drawing Hands, 1948

M.C. Escher was a Dutch graphic artist whose mathematical, realistic and precise images represent impossible perspectives, constructions and tessellations.

Eadweard Muybridge (1830-1904) • The Horse in Motion, 1877

Eadweard Muybridge was a British photographer who used multiple cameras to capture motion, including the infamous gallop of a horse. He also invented the zoopraxiscope, which is in many ways is the precursor to motion pictures.

Claes Oldenburg (b. 1929) • Clothespin, 1976

Claes Oldenburg is a Swedish sculptor known for his public art installations featuring large versions of everyday objects, and his soft sculpture versions of normally hard objects.

Diego Rivera (1886-1957) • Man at the Crossroads, 1933

Diego Rivera was a Mexican painter and muralist known for his large, simplified figures, bold colors and paintings of common people at work. He was married to Frida Kahlo.

Raphael Sanzio (1483-1520) • The School of Athens, 1509-10

Raphael was an Italian master painter and architect during the High Renaissance, celebrated for his smooth painted surfaces and the perfection and grace of his images.

Bridget Riley (b. 1931) • Movement in Squares, 1961

Bridget Riley is a British painter, one of the foremost proponents of Op (optical) art, a style that uses geometric elements to create an illusion of movement on the surface of a canvas.

James Abbott McNeill Whistler (1834 –1903) • Whistler's Mother, 1871

James Abbott McNeill Whistler was an American-born, British-based painter and printmaker. He is most well known for the painting of his mother, now considered an exploration of early abstraction.

Grant Wood (1891-1942) • American Gothic, 1930

Grant Wood was an American painter most well known for his depictions of the American Midwest.



Words to Know

Art Vocabulary for Grades Four through Six

ACRYLIC PAINT – a type of paint that is a water-based plastic paint.

D'APPARAT – a portrait of a person painted that includes an image of the sitter along with props suggesting the interests, vocation or mood of the sitter.

EN PLEIN AIR – a French term that means “in the open,” this style of painting describes paintings that are made outdoors.

FOLK ART – traditional art made by people who have not had art training in school. Folk art originates among the common people of a nation or region and usually reflects their traditional culture.

IMPRESSIONISM – a style of painting developed by a group of French artists who produced an outdoor painting technique in the 1860's that focuses on the effects of light and color. Impressionist artists typically painted outdoors rather than in the studio. They emphasized their brushstrokes and the depiction of a particular time of day. Subject matter of Impressionist artists included landscapes and candid glimpses of people, involved in activities of leisure. Impressionism came to Bucks County in the early 1900's.

ITINERANT ARTIST – an artist who travels from place to place to do his or her work.

LENNI LENAPE INDIANS - a group of natives of the Americas who lived along the Delaware River Valley, from southern New York to northern Delaware.

MEDIUM – the material an artist uses while creating a work of art.

MURAL – a painting that is applied to and made integral with the surface of a wall or ceiling; usually a large picture painted directly onto an interior or exterior wall.

OIL PAINT – paint in which the pigment is held together by a base of oil.

QUAKER – a member of the Religious Society of Friends, founded in 17th century England.

PERSPECTIVE – a formal method of creating a three-dimensional effect on a two-dimensional surface. Creating a sense of perspective can involve overlapping, shading, size change and color fading as objects go into the distance.



For the Chaperones
Thank you
for volunteering your time....

Thank you for volunteering to be a chaperone for your school's visit to the James A. Michener Art Museum. Your role is important in facilitating a smooth and enjoyable visit for your group.

Please stay with your assigned group throughout the visit, during lunch, and at the Museum shop. Students follow your example.

While in the Museum, please make sure your group follows museum decorum. The docents are your students' educational leaders. In the event of misconduct, we hope that chaperones and classroom teachers will step in so that the rest of the group will not be disrupted.

Thank you for helping us create a successful museum experience for both you and your group. We appreciate your cooperation.

Enjoy your visit!



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