

# VICTORIAN ART GALLERY



**DO NOT TOUCH**

Many of these paintings are over 200 years old. Grease from fingers can damage the artworks.

## Background Information

We are standing in the art gallery which displays lots of paintings popular in the 19th Century. How long ago was the 19th century?

Queen Victoria ruled over Britain during most of the 19th century when paintings like these were popular. The Victorians liked paintings to make them feel good when they looked at them. They liked landscapes, portraits and tales of adventure.

The Victorians loved fine details in artworks and for the images to look realistic. All the paintings here are intricately painted. The Victorians also liked grandeur. Look at how impressive the picture frames are. They are shiny and gold and have lots of patterns in the moldings. The frames are almost like a work of art in themselves!





## INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Go around and look at the different themes of the paintings.  
What do you see?

Do you have a favourite theme or a favourite painting?  
Discuss what you like or what you don't like.

How did the painting make you feel?

Themes to look out for:

- Portraits ● Landscapes ● Seascapes
- Religion ● Fantasy ● Adventure ● Historical



## LITERACY ACTIVITY

Choose an artwork that you like.

Is the artwork telling you a story?

Write about what you think is happening in the painting.  
For example, if there are people in the picture,  
who are they? What are they doing? What is going on?

What does the image make you wonder?

What is the atmosphere like?

If it is a landscape, what is the weather like?

How does the image make you feel?



## OBSERVATION ACTIVITY

Look closely at the details.

Take a viewfinder. Find an artwork that you think  
is interesting and stand in front of it.

Look through the viewfinder. What do you see?

- Colours ● Shapes ● Textures ● People ● Objects

Move your viewfinder to a new part of the artwork.  
Does this change what you can see?

What captures your attention?

Now move to a new spot.

Does this change what you can see?

Keep moving yourself and your viewfinder to look at your  
artwork in different ways.



## DRAWING ACTIVITY

Draw the detail.

Draw one of the details you have discovered.

It might be a flower, an animal, details on clothing,  
part of a tree or a cloud.

Drawing encourages careful observation and copying  
an image encourages experimenting with different  
mark marking.