

# Looking at Paintings: Subject, Narrative, Composition and Materials

## Leicester Museum & Art Gallery

**Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 curriculum links:** Art and Design, Language and Literacy

**Cross curriculum links:** Mathematics, PSHE, Drama

### 1. Session Description

Held in the impressive Victorian Art Gallery at Leicester Museum & Art Gallery, this session focuses on the broad aspects of 19th Century paintings, such as the importance of narrative, subject matter, composition, and the use of materials.

The session engages pupils in various practical and creative activities, maximising different learning styles to help pupils gain confidence to look at and evaluate a painting.

### 2. Session length

90 minutes (1 hour 30 minutes)

### 3. Session Structure and Breakdown of Timings

Time	Activity	Length of activity
0-2mins	Welcome and orientation	2 minutes
2-10	Introduction to activities	8 minutes
10-22	Looking at subject matters	12 minutes
22-34mins	Looking at narrative	12 minutes
34-46mins	How is an image put together? – Looking at composition	12 minutes
46mins-58mins	How is a painting made? – Looking at materials and tools	12 minutes
58mins-1hr 28mins	Practical activity	30 minutes
1hr 28mins- 1hr 30mins	Plenary	2 minutes

Note: timings are flexible in response to pupil participation

## 4. Learning Outcomes

- Develop skills and build confidence to interpret works of art.
- To work co-operatively as a group and individually.
- Contribute through discussion and activities.

## 5. Curriculum Links

### Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

#### Art and Design

- Evaluate and analyse works using the language of art
- Produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences
- Know about great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms
- Use drawing, painting, and sculpture to develop and share ideas and imagination; develop techniques
- Use a range of materials creatively to design and make products

#### Language and literacy

- Participate in discussions, presentations, performances, role play, improvisations, and debates
- Ask relevant questions to extend their understanding and knowledge
- Be competent in speaking and listening, make formal presentations

#### Mathematics

- Recognise and name common 2-D and 3-D shapes, including:
  - 2-D shapes [for example, rectangles (including squares), circles and triangles]
  - 3-D shapes [for example, cuboids (including cubes), pyramids and spheres]
- Use the language of position, direction and motion, including: left and right, top, middle and bottom, on top of, in front of, above, between, around, near, close and far, up and down, forwards and backwards, inside and outside

#### PSHE

- Relationships and social hierarchies

## 6. Staffing requirements

Museum facilitator led plus at least 3 accompanying adults from the school.

## 7. Room requirements

Victorian Art Gallery at Leicester Museum & Art Gallery.

## 8. Pre-visit and Post-visit activities

### Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 cross curricular links:

- **History:** Interpret the past from resources
- **Language and literacy:** write clearly, accurately, and coherently; handwriting; writing narratives; be competent in speaking and listening, make formal presentations
- **Art:** use drawing, painting, and sculpture to develop and share ideas and imagination; develop techniques; use a range of materials creatively to design and make products
- **Drama:** acting, role-play, theatre making

#### Pre-visit activities

- 1). Research different kinds of portraiture i.e. self- portraits, group portraits, full length and half-length portraits. Show examples from different times in art history.
  
- 2). Create a self-portrait, without looking in a mirror. Discuss perceptions and how they compare to reality.

#### Post-visit activities

- 1). Use the portrait of Mrs Matthew Michell and Her Children Matthew and Anne by Thomas Hudson, discussed in the session as inspiration. <https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/mrs-matthew-michell-and-her-children-matthew-and-anne-81505>
  - Re-create the poses in the picture and make a modern- day interpretation, dress in modern clothes with modern accessories and recreate a background relevant to the characters.
  - Write a short story about the characters in Thomas Hudson's painting.
  
- 2). Use rulers to measure proportions of a face, the size of features and where they are positioned. Draw a face using the measurements.
  
- 3). Download the **Every Picture Tells a Story** art cards on our website. Have a go at the activities to do at home or in the classroom.

