

Art Trivia Quiz for Teens

- Who was the artist that painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel?
(a) Van Gough (b) Vermeer (c) Michelangelo (d) Renoir
- Who painted the *Mona Lisa*?
(a) Da Vinci (b) Monet (c) Picasso (d) Munch
- What artist is known for his paint splattering technique?
(a) Renoir (b) Pollock (c) Da Vinci (d) Blake
- Who painted *Starry Night*?
(a) Matisse (b) Monet (c) Renoir (d) Van Gogh

Answers: 1. (c), 2. (a), 3. (c), 4. (d)



Bringing Art into Focus

As the days start cooling off, and summer rolls to its end, we begin again to think about that one thing that drives us the rest of the year: school. As math, reading, history, geography, science, and so many other subjects return to the forefront of our attention, many others get swept aside.

In this issue of *Education Connections*, we are focusing on art. Why art? What other subject teaches us so much about all the others?

Take a stroll through history with art. Learn about math with dimensions and spatial relations. Read about your favorite artist or era. Look around the world and learn about different cultures by viewing their art. Learn how scientists can test the age of art and artifacts, as well as restore precious pieces.

Art is everywhere we look, from our soup cans to our family photos to museums. Art is in everything we do, from our doodles to our grandmother's quilt. And we can learn so much from it. Who created it? Where did they live? What was life like then that made them create this? Why is this important? What materials did they use? What did their peers think of what they made?



Impression: Sunrise, by Claude Monet

Introduction to Impressionism

Impressionism is a style of painting characterized by an artist's abstract interpretation of objects or scenes. Unmixed primary colors and small brush strokes are used to simulate actual reflected light. The word "impressionism" was used for the first time in the French magazine *Charivari* on April 25, 1874. Art critic Louis Leroy was shocked by Claude Monet's new artistic style, which broke away from traditional, realistic painting. Leroy thought his work looked like blobs of paint that barely suggested reality. Unwittingly, Leroy named the most important artistic phenomenon of the nineteenth century after Monet's painting, *Impression: Sunrise*.

Influenced by Eugene Boudin, a seascape artist who practiced painting outside (*plein air*), Monet abandoned his art studio and painted on location (*sur le motif*). He achieved a fresh impression of nature by capturing transient light and color. His brush strokes were simple and unblended on the canvas, which created a shimmering sensation of light.

Art Activity

Supplies: paper for painting, watercolor paints, clipboard, paint brush, and a jar with a lid for water

Read: *Linnea in Monet's Garden*, by Christina Bjork

Look at: reproductions of Monet's paintings *Impression: Sunrise*, 1873; *Across the Meadow*, 1879; *Monet's Garden at Giverny*, *Irises*, 1900; *Water Lilies*, 1905; and *Poppies, Near Argenteuil*, 1873.

Take your children outside to a garden, courtyard, park or arboretum. Ask them to paint their impressions of the landscape.

Afterward, discuss what it might have been like or felt like to have been an impressionist painter. What influenced their work? Was it the wind, temperature, season, amount of light, view? Guess what the pictures are of, title the pictures: "Impression: _____" (fill in the blank) and write it on the back.

Teen Reads on Art

Nonfiction

Women Artists of the West: Five Portraits in Creativity and Courage by Julie Danneberg

Andy Warhol: Prince of Pop by Jan Greenberg

Leonardo da Vinci: Renaissance Genius by Barbara O'Connor

Art and Entertainment: Art, Culture and Entertainment through the Ages

Photography: An Illustrated History by Martin W. Sandler

History of Art for Young People by H.W. Janson

Great Careers for People Interested in Art & Design by Gillian Bartlett

Fiction

Pieces of Georgia: Novel by Jennifer Bryant

The Janus Gate: An Encounter with John Singer Sargent by Douglas Rees

A Trick of the Eye by Dennis Haseley

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett

Art in Colorado Springs

Colorado may not have huge art museums like New York City or Paris, but there are plenty of fun places where you can view art right around the corner!

The Fine Arts Center, 30 West Dale St. (719) 634-5583

FAC Modern, Plaza of the Rockies, First Floor, South Tower 121 South Tejon St. (719) 477-4308

Van Briggles Pottery, 600 S. 21st St. (719) 633-4080
www.vanbriggles.com

Full Spectrum Art Glass
828-A Fillmore St. (719) 630-7664
www.fullspectrumartglass.com

Broadmoor Art on Location
www.broadmoor.com/colorado-art-vacations.php

Colorado Springs Art Guild www.artwebsite.org.

Feast of Books and Chocolate

East Library ♦ 10:30 a.m. - noon

A discussion group for teens in sixth through 12th grade.

For more information, call 531-6333, x1207.



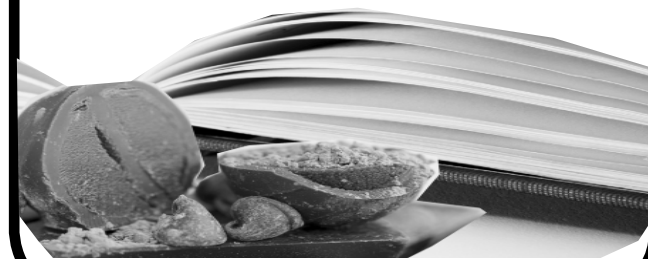
Stormbreaker
by Anthony Horowitz
Thu., September 18



Out of the Dust
by Karen Hesse
Thu., October 16



The Schwa Was Here
by Neal Shusterman
Thu., November 13





Take a look at the art that can be found in picture books and use these quick activities to help everyone look carefully at the beautiful artwork.

These first two books have realistic elements in the illustrations: **Help Me, Mr. Mutt!** by Janet Stevens and **How I Learned Geography** by Uri Shulevitz. Discuss what parts of the books seem real and which parts are purely imaginative. Do you have any other books checked out that have completely realistic illustrations? Try Rachel Isadora's **Uh-Oh!** for pure realism.

Some books have very simple, flat illustrations with few colors. **Pigeon Wants a Puppy** by Mo Willems and **Sergio Makes a Splash** by Edel Rodriguez are two good examples. Do you think you could draw the pigeon or the penguin from these books?

There are books with clearly different approaches to illustration, like **Mary Had a Little Lamp** by Jack Lechner and **Papá and Me** by Arthur Dorrow. Both books have pictures that are full of energy and movement, but each illustrator used a completely different idea on how to achieve that feel. Describe the differences in the pictures. Do you like one better than the other? Why?

There are also fancy books with very detailed illustrations, like **Bonjour Butterfly** by Jane O'Connor and **What Do We Do With the Baby?** by Rick Walton. Both of these books also use a lot of white space on the pages. Compare these pictures with **Papa and Me** or **Help Me, Mr. Mutt!** What do you notice?

Finally, look at the books you have been reading. Is the author the illustrator? Did someone else draw the pictures you really enjoyed? You can use the name of an illustrator as a search in the Pikes Peak Library District Catalog (found at ppld.org) and find other books by the same artist. Sometimes the book will tell you more about the art – you just have to look!

- Miss Melody, Sand Creek Branch

NextReads for Homeschoolers

There's something for everyone!
Go to ppld.org, click on Library Services, then NextReads - Email Reading Lists, then check the box next to Homeschooling. Topics include Music, Entomology, Wild, Wild West, and Biography.

TV Talk: Star on the Library Channel

Read anything great? Tell your friends about it on TV. Join children's author Donna Guthrie for a class on writing and videotaping a book review for the Library Channel (Comcast Channel 17). The class is open to children ages 10 to 14. For more information and registration, call 531-6333, x1403. Space is limited.

Sat., November 15 from 1 - 4 p.m.
East Library - Children's Story Room

Database Focus: Virtual Art Tour

Computers and art are at the opposite ends of the spectrum... Not! Electronically speaking, art has never been more accessible. From the masterpieces of Edgar Degas, to internationally renowned galleries, to Shakespeare's masterworks, great art is right there at your fingertips.

Looking at and learning about art via your computer may not be quite as much fun as strolling through the Louvre, but it's much more affordable and accessible, plus you won't have those long annoying lines at the box office! Here are just some of the resources waiting to give you an art tour, lesson, or virtual afternoon at a museum.

Electronic Reference

From the Pikes Peak Library District homepage (ppld.org), click Electronic Reference, then Teens. Choose Arts and Humanities Through the Eras, which profiles milestones and movements in the arts, literature, music and religion. From ancient Egypt to the 1800s, explore many aspects of art and humanities, including visual art, dance, fashion, theater, music, and literature.

Web Picks

Another great way to see famous works of art without having to stand in line is to go to Web Picks. Choose Art/Artists or Museums. You'll soon be resting your eyes on world-famous canvasses or sculptures.

Community Info

Prefer your art up close and personal? Again from the PPLD homepage, go to Community Info, and then Arts. Here you'll find links to artists and art organizations in the Pikes Peak region. You can search by artist name and find a list of local artists, the nature of their art, and where they exhibit. Art organizations are also listed. If you're dying to see some cool ceramics, you can also search by media. This is a cool way to support local art and artists.

ppld.org/Homeschool

Leonardo da Vinci spent 12 years painting the Mona Lisa's lips.

The first pencil was invented in England in 1565.

Second Annual Home School Art Show

Children age 5 to 12 may each submit one piece of unframed art, drawing, photograph, or sculpture to be exhibited in East Library's Children's Department in March 2009.

Art may be brought to the Children's Department the week of February 22, 2009, and must be picked up by April 15, 2009.

For more information, please contact Mary Grant at 531-6333, x1407, or mgrant@ppld.org.

Teens age 12 to 18 may each submit one piece of hanging art to be exhibited at the East Library Gallery in March 2009.

Art may be brought to the East Teen Center the week of February 22, 2009, and must be picked up by April 15, 2009.

For more information, please contact Kristen Baldwin at 531-6333, x1207, or kbaldwin@ppld.org.

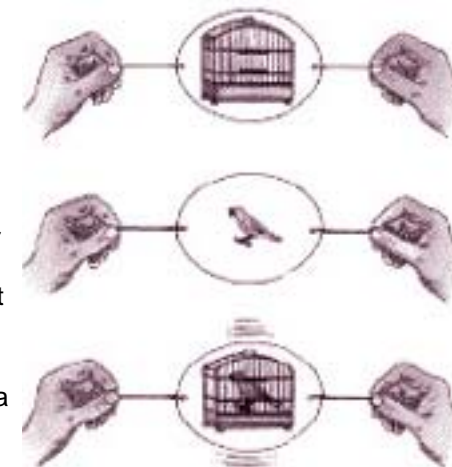
A reception will be held for all artists and their families and friends on March 15, 2009, from 2 - 3 p.m. at East Library. Refreshments will be provided.

Create Your Own Thaumatrope!

Try your hand as an artist and an animator! One of the earliest motion toys, the thaumatrope is an optical illusion that is easy to make. It consists of a disc, with pictures on both sides. When you spin the disc, two pictures will blend together to form a single image. The popularity of this toy in the 1820s eventually led to advances in motion-picture technology and animation.

Here's how to make an easy one:

1. Cut identical circles of thick paper (index cards or poster board work well).
2. Draw a picture on each circle. When put together, the two pictures should make one picture, such as a bird and a cage, a flower and a vase, a fish and a fishbowl, a cloud and a lightning bolt, or a football and a goalpost. Make sure to space your pictures on the circle so that they will match up correctly when you see the full image.
3. Tape the circles to opposite sides of a pencil or straw.
4. Spin the pencil between your hands to see the illusion.



During his entire life, artist Vincent van Gogh sold just one painting.

Art Books for Kids

Pablo Picasso could draw before he could walk.

Nonfiction

- The Usborne Art Treasury* by Rosie Dickins
- Children: A First Art Book* by Lucy Micklethwait
- Nifty Thrifty Animal Crafts* by Faith K. Gabriel
- The Art of Freedom: How Artists See America* by Rob Raczka
- A History of Western Art: From Prehistory to the 20th Century* by Antony Mason
- African Crafts: Fun Things to Make and Do from West Africa* by Lynne Garner
- Chinese Crush Painting: A Hands-On Introduction to the Traditional Art* by Caroline Self
- Artist to Artist: 23 Major Illustrators Talk to Children About Their Art* by Eric Carle
- Look!: Seeing the Light in Art* by Gillian Wolfe
- M is for Masterpiece: An Art Alphabet* by David Domeniconi

Fiction

- Patrick Paints a Picture* by Saviour Pirotta
- A Picture for Marc* by Eric A. Kimmel
- Amelia Bedelia's Masterpiece* by Herman Parish
- Vinnie and Abraham* by Dawn FitzGerald
- The DOT* by Peter H. Reynolds

Yellow is the most difficult color for the eye to process.



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