Art Trivia Quiz for Teens

1. Who was the artist that painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel?
   (a) Van Gough  (b) Vermeer  (c) Michelangelo  (d) Renoir

2. Who painted the Mona Lisa?
   (a) Da Vinci  (b) Monet  (c) Picasso  (d) Munch

3. What artist is known for his paint splattering technique?
   (a) Renoir  (b) Pollock  (c) Da Vinci  (d) Blake

4. Who painted Starry Night?
   (a) Matisse  (b) Monet  (c) Renoir  (d) Van Gogh

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

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?

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 ... 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?

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, ... 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.

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

To contact PPLD’s Homeschool Committee, please email kbaldwin@ppld.org

Pikes Peak Library District
EDUCATION CONNECTIONS
Autumn 2008

Learning @ your library®

Bringing Art into Focus

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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.

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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

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.

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.

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

Here’s how to make an easy one:
1. Cut identical circles of thick paper
2. Tape the circles to opposite sides of a pencil or straw.
3. Spin the pencil between your hands
   putting together the two pictures should make one picture, such as a bird and a cage, a fish and a bowl, a cloud and a lightning bolt, or 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 they match up correctly when you see the full image.
4. Tape the circles to opposite sides of a pencil or straw.
5. Spin the pencil between your hands to see the illusion.

Art Books for Kids

Nonfiction

The Usborne Art Treasury by Rosie Dickins
Children: A First Art Book by Lucy Mckiehwatt
Nitty 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

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

Electronic Reference

From the Pikes Peak Library District homepage (ppld.org), click Electronic Reference, then Teens. Choose Arts and Humanities Through the Eras, which provides timelines 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 restoring your eyes on world-famous canvases or sculptures.

For more information, please contact Mary on NextReads or at mgrant@ppld.org.

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 Oh Oh! The Unofficial Guide to 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 Stein are two good examples. Do you think you could draw the pigeon or the shark from these books?

There are books with clearly different approaches to illustration, like Mary Had a Little Lamp by Jack Lechner and Papa 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 at it.

- Miss Melody, Sand Creek Branch

NextReads for Homeschoolers

Go to ppld.org, click on Library Services, then NextReads - Email Reading Lists, then check the Homeschooling Reading List. Topics include Music, Entomology, Wild, Wild West, and Biography.

There’s something for everyone.

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.