

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Family
Guide

Young in America[★]

Look and imagine
in the American Wing

Keepsake
cards
inside!





Use this guide to imagine life as a child in different times and places as you explore art in the American Wing. Whether you're young or just young at heart, you'll have fun discovering how children inhabit the world of art!

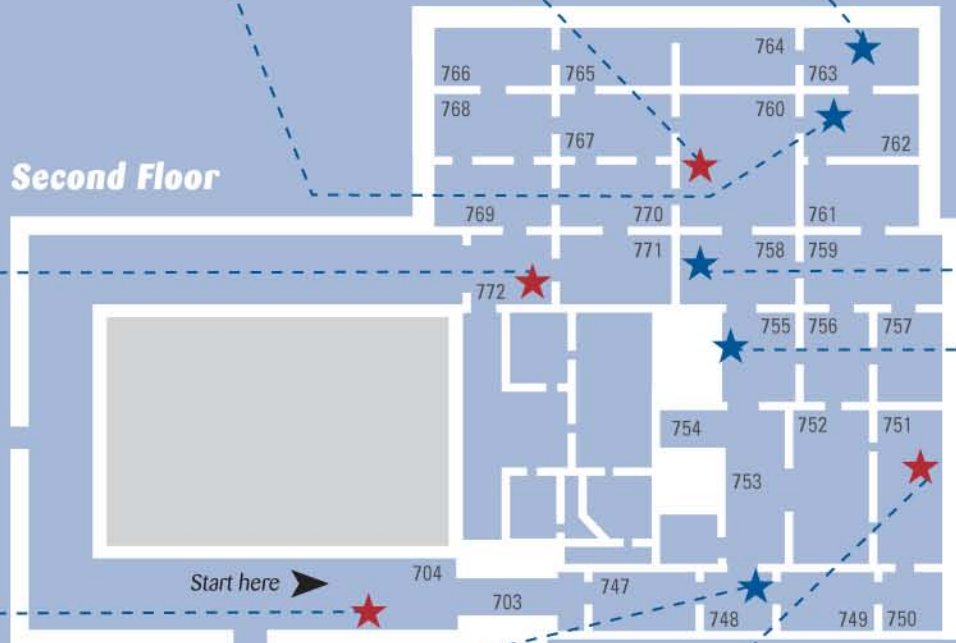
Don't forget!

The American Wing is not the only place to find American art at the Metropolitan Museum. Visit the galleries for the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas to see art made by the native peoples of North America, and go to the Modern and Contemporary galleries to look at works by American artists of today. Keep in mind: sometimes we have to move works of art or even close galleries to renovate them or prepare for exhibitions. When in doubt, ask a guard for help!

The map below and the details on each card will help you find the works of art. Tear each card along the dotted lines. Read the questions and then turn the cards over to find fun facts and activities!



Second Floor



Education
The Metropolitan Museum of Art
1000 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10028-0198
www.metmuseum.org

Cover details: Joshua Johnson, *Edward and Sarah Rutter*, ca. 1805; Winslow Homer, *Snap the Whip*, 1872, Gift of Christian A. Zabriskie, 1950 (50.41); George Caleb Bingham, *Fur Traders Descending the Missouri*, 1845; Winslow Homer, *Dressing for the Carnival*, 1877; John Singleton Copley, *Daniel Crommelin Verplanck*, 1771

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Gallery
704

Shake, rattle, and...chew?
How many noises could you make with this toy?



Nicholas Roosevelt (1715–1769), *Rattle, Whistle, and Bells*, 1755–68; Rogers Fund, 1947 (47.70)



Gallery
748

What is a squirrel doing in this painting?



John Singleton Copley (American, 1738–1815), *Daniel Crommelin Verplanck*, 1771; Gift of Bayard Verplanck, 1949 (49.12)



Gallery
758

Are we there yet?

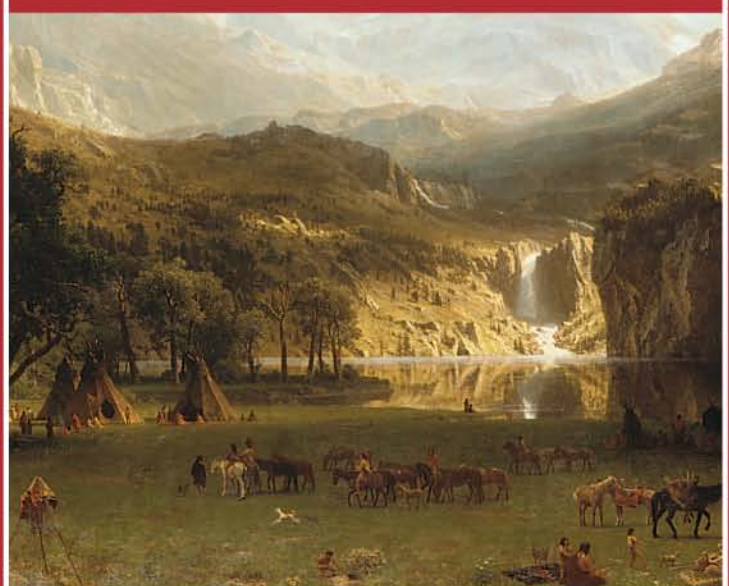


George Caleb Bingham (American, 1811–1879), *Fur Traders Descending the Missouri*, 1845; Morris K. Jesup Fund, 1933 (33.61)



Gallery
760

Picture yourself in this scene.
Can you imagine a better playground?



Albert Bierstadt (American, 1830–1902), *The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak*, 1863; Rogers Fund, 1907 (07.123)

★
Gallery
751

What treasures would you keep in a locked drawer?



High chest of drawers, 1762–65; John Stewart Kennedy Fund, 1918 (18.110.4)

★
Gallery
755

Whose shoes would you choose?



Joshua Johnson (about 1763–about 1824), *Edward and Sarah Rutter*, about 1805; Gift of Edgar William and Bernice Chrysler Garbisch, 1965 (65.254.3)

★
Gallery
762

Oh, say can you see stars and stripes? How many American flags can you count?



Winslow Homer (American, 1836–1910), *Dressing for the Carnival*, 1877; Amelia B. Lazarus Fund, 1922 (22.220)

★
Gallery
772

**Look out...!
Who's fast but frozen?**



Mary Abastenia St. Leger Eberle (American, 1878–1942), *Girl Skating*, 1906; Rogers Fund, 1909 (09.57)



Here we have brother and sister Edward and Sarah Rutter with their pet bird. How can you tell they are related? In this portrait, the artist painted a simple, dark background to help focus attention on the children. The artist also has Edward and Sarah look straight at you to catch your eye as you look at the picture.

Did you know? The artist, Joshua Johnson, was one of the first Black American painters in the United States and was widely admired.

Activity Artists can use colors to guide your eye around a painting and draw your attention to details. What details stand out? What colors did this artist use and where do they repeat? List the colors:

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This chest towers above you! Tall chests with drawers like this were used in bedrooms and hallways to store clothing, bedding, and valuable linens under lock and key. The craftsmen who made this chest were very skilled and carved elegant details all over it. Did you notice the woman keeping watch at the top? From her hairstyle and dress, she looks like a very stylish lady.



Did you know? Sometimes it's not so easy to be a kid. The smallest, topmost drawers are beyond the reach of curious little hands, so they don't need to lock. Very crafty of those craftsmen!

Activity Use your eagle eyes. Can you find the carved swans and water-spouting dragon? Look closely at the chest's feet. What American animal has claws like that?

An

If you enjoy looking at furniture, the American Wing has many rooms from original homes that you won't want to miss!



The artist shows a girl in motion as she speeds downhill—but this daredevil is missing a skate! Compared to some of the portraits you've seen, this sculpture could be any girl, expressing emotions many of us have felt before.

Did you know? Unlike artists who made portraits of the wealthy, this woman artist really wanted to show ordinary people, who could not afford to have their portraits done. She especially liked to represent children playing and women working.

Activity Freeze frame—strike her pose! Imagine you are racing down the hill. How does your

body feel? What does the artist add to show the girl in motion?



The people in this painting combine traditions to celebrate the July 4th Independence Day. The man's colorful costume might connect to his heritage: it looks like an outfit for a West African festival called Jonkonnu. The artist painted this picture when slavery had just ended in the United States. The scene takes place in Virginia, where communities were separated by race.

Did you know? The artist, Winslow Homer, often painted outdoor scenes. Bonus: He also painted *Snap the Whip*, which you can see in gallery 763, next door.

Activity One little girl stands alone near the wooden fence. Imagine following her through the gate. Describe to your companion what you see on the other side of the fence. Can you find another painting in these galleries that looks like what you've imagined?



This squirrel is actually a pet, sitting calmly in the lap of nine-year-old Daniel Verplanck, the boy in this painting. At the time, it was fashionable to paint children with animals or with a family pet. A portrait is a picture of a person. Having your portrait made was a sign of wealth and luxury.

Did you know? Squirrels, raccoons, and foxes were popular pets for boys from wealthy families. Trapping and training a wild animal was a sign of a boy's skill and good behavior.

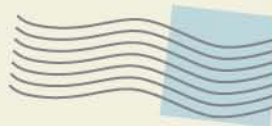
Activity If someone were to paint a portrait of you, what animal would you choose to join you? Sketch your portrait:



This awesome scene takes us from snowcapped mountains, down a waterfall, and to a lush valley. At the time it was made, it fascinated viewers in the way an IMAX movie might today. The Shoshone families pictured at the bottom look tiny in this vast landscape. Look for the children. What is each of them doing?

Did you know? New Yorkers would have seen this painting and the one directly across the room—*Heart of the Andes* by Frederic Edwin Church—on display together soon after they were painted. At that time, few East Coast Americans had ever seen the uncharted lands of the West. Paintings like this helped inspire people to explore the western territories.

Activity Write a postcard to a friend or loved one describing this amazing scene:



This rattle has all the bells and whistles—and provided endless entertainment! Wealthy families bought such elaborate and expensive toys—made from precious silver or gold—for their tiny loved ones. With the help of a ribbon strung through a loop on the underside of the whistle, this rattle hung around a girl's neck or was tied around a boy's waist.



Did you know? The bright red part is made of coral from the sea. Some might say it was the perfect teething stick: coral was thought to protect children from illness and relieve swelling and mouth pain.

Activity Ask your companion what his or her favorite toy was as a very young child. What was special about it? Did it make noise?

In this painting father and son travel down a calm Missouri River on a business trip to sell their furs. They journey with a mysterious companion. The creature may look like a cat—but it's actually a bear cub! The boy is part French and part Native American. The artist gives us hints about the boy's background through details in his clothing.

Did you know? Before highways and airways linked us to every part of this continent, travel by water was often the quickest and safest way to go.

Activity The father and son look directly at you. Where are you—standing on the shore or seated in your own boat? Describe to your companion the different sounds you hear, what you smell, and what it feels like to be there.

Hear

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Smell

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Feel

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