

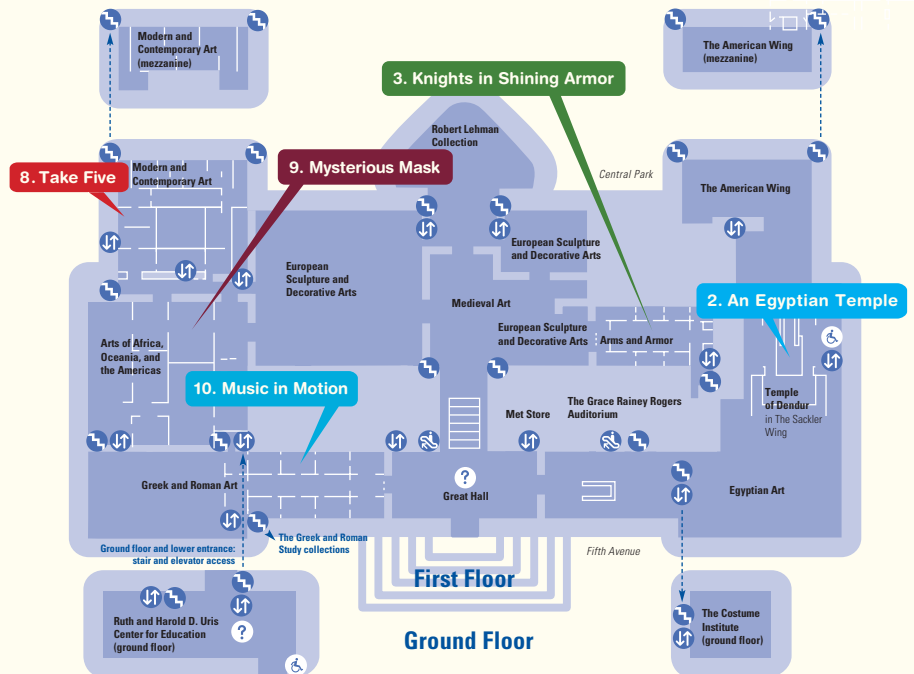
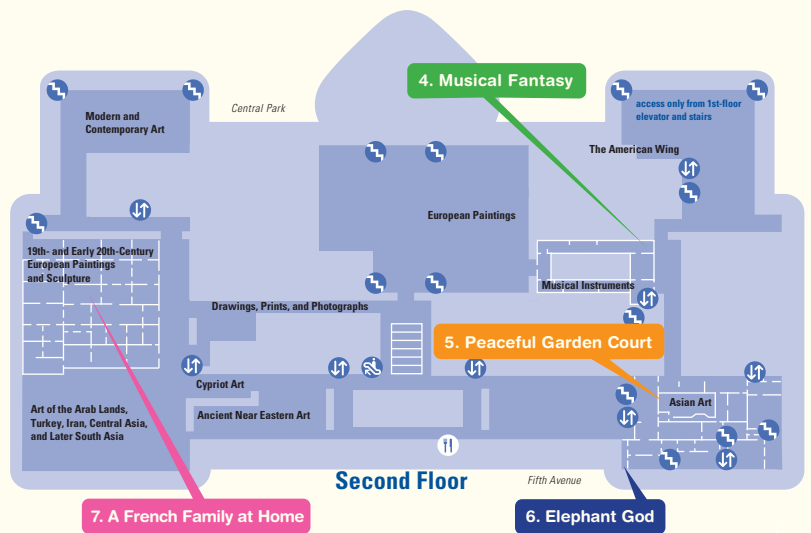
kids' Q&A

YOU ASK, WE ANSWER

What are some of kids' favorite things to see in the Museum?

So many of you have asked this question that we went right to the source and asked dozens of kids what they thought. Based on their top picks, we came up with the selections in this issue of *Kids' Q&A*.

These "greatest hits" will take you to many different parts of the Museum. **Take a look at all or just some of the works, and in any order you like.** What do you think of these choices? As you travel through the Museum, make a note about what you might pick as *your* favorite!



Please keep in mind! Sometimes we have to move works of art or even close some galleries to renovate them or install special exhibitions. See the *Family Map* or *Museum Map* or ask a guard for help!

Music in Motion

10

Do you play an instrument? The young man on this jar plays a *kithara*, a kind of lyre that was used in public performances. The figure on the other side is most likely a judge—identified by his clothing and staff—who observes the performer. Although the scene probably shows a competition, it's really about the importance of music. It is almost as if a spotlight were shining on the young man. He sways to the music and is totally absorbed in his performance. **In addition to playing an instrument, he is making music in another way. Can you tell what it is?**

Amphora (jar), ca. 490 B.C.; attributed to the Berlin Painter; Greek, Attic; terracotta; Fletcher Fund, 1956 (56.171.38)



I wish [the Museum] had pictures of panda bears, but I do like the paintings of kids.
—Courtnei, age 9

9

Mysterious Mask

Of what material do you think this is made? It's not hard to imagine why kids singled out this unusual mask. Buried in the tombs of Peruvian leaders about a thousand years ago, gold masks like this were sometimes found in groups of five—four might be stacked at the feet, while one covered the head. The red paint seen here was often used on masks, along with ornaments and other materials, such as copper and feathers. The thin wires might show a certain expression in the eyes, but we're not sure.

Funerary mask, 10th–11th century; Peru; Sicán; gold, copper overlays, cinnabar; Gift and Bequest of Alice K. Bache, 1974, 1977 (1974.271.35)



Charles Demuth (American, 1883–1935), *I Saw the Figure 5 in Gold*, 1928; oil, graphite, ink, and gold leaf on paperboard; Alfred Stieglitz Collection, 1949 (49.59.1)

Take Five

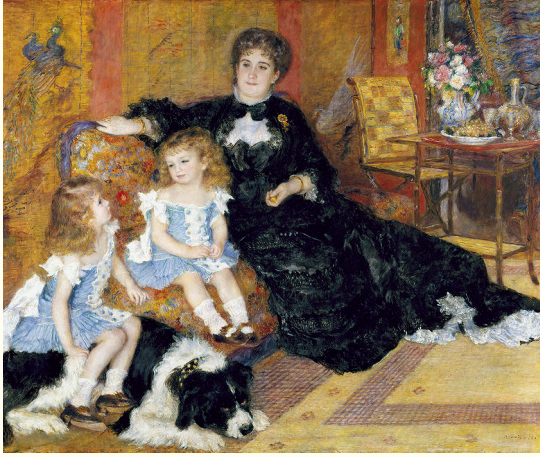
8

If you were going to paint a portrait of a friend, what would it look like? The painter Charles Demuth dedicated this painting to his friend, the poet William Carlos Williams. It is an abstract portrait of Williams inspired by his poem "The Great Figure," about a fire engine racing through city streets on a rainy night. Demuth painted basic shapes to give an impression of the number 5 engine's speed and motion. **Can you find the hints at Williams's name in the painting?**

It's so exciting when you look at the painting and you can see where all the fives are. At first you see only one, and then suddenly you get it!
—Emily, age 10

I love the Astor Court. It is so peaceful and calm, and I love the fish.
—Kate, age 7

A French Family at Home



It's always fun for kids today to see what kids in other times and cultures were like. The artist Renoir painted this family in their home. The mother's dress and the Japanese-style decorations in the room were considered very fashionable. Two surprising details: the child on the sofa next to the mother is not a girl, but a three-year-old boy whose hair has been allowed to grow, following the customs of the time. Also, take a look at the boy's older sister. Instead of sitting on a chair, she is posing on top of the family's dog! **How would you describe the expressions on the children's faces? Happy? Sad? Bored?**

Auguste Renoir (French, 1841–1919), *Madame Georges Charpentier and Her Children, Georgette-Berthe and Paul-Émile-Charles*, 1878; oil on canvas; Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Collection, Wolfe Fund, 1907 (07.122)

Elephant God

6

Meet Ganesha, a Hindu god. One story says he has an elephant head because his father cut off his human head by mistake, and then gave him the head of the first creature his father could find. You can probably tell that Ganesha likes to eat sweets—do you see the one he's holding? Hindus believe he can remove obstacles. They pray to him and offer him gifts before starting a new project. **Ganesha's full belly is a positive symbol. What quality do you think it represents?**

Standing Ganesha, Chola period, 12th century; India (Tamil Nadu); copper alloy; Promised Gift of Florence and Herbert Irving (L.1994.21.2)



I didn't know museums had instruments. I thought they were just things you played.
—Angus, age 4



5

Peaceful Garden Court

Do you ever want to take a break and just read or think somewhere calm and quiet? Modeled after a scholar's court in China, this peaceful garden courtyard is the perfect place. With its rocks, water, and seasonal plants it offers a miniature version of the natural world. In China, rooms of a home were often built around a courtyard, giving each room a view of the outdoors. The Chinese principles of yin and yang—opposites such as dark and light, hard and soft—are also showcased here. **Can you find examples of opposites?**

Chinese Garden Court, gift of the Vincent Astor Foundation; opened to the public in 1981

Musical Fantasy

4

Can you imagine actually playing this instrument? Near this harpsichord, Polyphemus, a one-eyed Cyclops (on the left), plays a bagpipe to please Galatea, the sea nymph he loved (on the right). At one time Galatea held a lute (a stringed instrument). The harpsichord was part of a museum display in Rome; the figures would have stood in front of a backdrop with pictures of sea and sky. **What sea creatures can you find frolicking across the instrument?**

Harpsichord, ca. 1670; Michele Todini, inventor; Rome, Italy; wood, various materials; The Crosby Brown Collection of Musical Instruments, 1889 (89.4.2929a–e)



Knights in Shining Armor

3

Knights and armor are always hugely popular with kids—and no wonder. In the Emma and Georgina Bloomberg Arms and Armor Court, you'll see a group of knights on horseback. The beautifully etched armor has images of the sun, animals, and even mythological figures. **Can you find any of these images?** Find the armor created by Kunz Lochner (at the head of the group). He was famous worldwide, and his patrons included the Holy Roman Emperor.

Kunz (Konrad) Lochner (German, ca. 1510–1567), *Armors for Man and Horse*, dated 1548; etched steel, leather; man's armor: Bashford Dean Memorial Collection, Gift of Mrs. Bashford Dean, 1929 (29.151.2); horse's armor: Rogers Fund, 1932 (32.69)



2



An Egyptian Temple

Wow! It's easy to see why kids chose this temple. Built by the Roman emperor Augustus about two thousand years ago, the temple honors the Egyptian goddess Isis and two sons of a local chieftain. The carvings on the temple show images of the natural world: **Can you find papyrus, lotus water plants, and representations of sky and water?**

The Temple of Dendur, ca. 15 B.C.; reign of Augustus; Roman period, Egyptian; Nubia, Dendur; Aeolian Sandstone; given to the United States by Egypt in 1965, awarded to The Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1967, and installed in The Sackler Wing in 1978 (68.154)

I would have to say that I like the Egyptian galleries best. I always think I'll go and see something new, but then I end up going back to Egypt because I like it so much.

—Bryan, age 11

You pick number one!

1

What's your favorite thing to see in the Museum? In the space below (or on a separate sheet), draw a picture of your pick and explain why it's your favorite. Tell us its title and what part of the Museum it's in (for example, the Egyptian galleries). Send it to the address below, or drop it off at one of the Information Desks in the Museum. We'll use your suggestions to create a whole new issue of *Kids'Q&A!* Don't forget to include your name, age, and address—we'll send everyone who sends us something a Museum goodie.



Don't forget! *Kids'Q&A* tells you everything you want to know about the Museum, based on the questions you send us. So keep those questions coming!

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