



CURRICULUM AREAS ADDRESSED IN THIS TOUR:

Visual Arts Standards (KS and MO)

- Anchor Standard 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work.
- Anchor Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.
- Anchor Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

History, Government, and Social Studies Standards (KS)

- The student will analyze context and draw conclusions of how societies are shaped by the identities, beliefs, and practices of individuals and groups.

Social Studies Grade Level Expectations (MO)

- Describe how peoples' perspectives shaped the sources/artifacts they created.

English Language Arts Standards (KS)

- Initiate and participate in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

English Language Arts Grade Level Expectations (MO)

- Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives including those presented in diverse media.

TOUR DESCRIPTION:

Secondary Explorations is an introductory tour of the Nelson-Atkins that gives students a chance to explore a range of artistic styles and traditions while considering the choices artists make to express their unique perspectives. During the tour, students investigate works of art through inquiry-based conversation and analyze how art is shaped by cultural, historical, and social contexts, both in the past and in our lives today.

TOUR OBJECTIVES:

Learners will:

- Articulate individual interpretations of art and understand that multiple perspectives are possible.
- Explore how artists communicate through a visual language and work within artistic conventions.
- Discover that artists' choices are shaped by personal experience, place, and time.

4525 Oak Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64111
nelson-atkins.org

To schedule a tour visit:
nelson-atkins.org/learn

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

Making Observations

During their tour, students will look closely at works of art and describe what they see. Practice these skills by showing students an image of a work of art (wide-ranging examples from the Nelson-Atkins can be found at art.nelson-atkins.org) and asking them to describe what they see in as much detail as possible. Encourage students to refer to the Elements of Art (line, shape, color, form, texture, space, value) in their descriptions.

Interpreting Art

Drawing conclusions based on visual evidence helps us understand art. Using the same work of art students described in the previous activity, ask them to make interpretations based on what they see. Discuss:

- What story or message does the artist seem to be communicating in this work of art?
- What do you see in the work that makes you say that?

AFTER YOUR VISIT

Going Deeper with Works of Art

Students saw art from many times and places during their tour. Encourage them to choose one of the works they saw and learn more about it. What can they discover about the artist or culture that created the work, its intended meaning and/or function, and the historical moment in which it was made? Students can use the museum's online collection search and other print or web sources to find information. Works often viewed on *Secondary Explorations* tours can be accessed online at art.nelson-atkins.org/favorites/11025/secondary-explorations-school-tour/objects.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

What's Going On in This Picture?

nytimes.com/column/learning-whats-going-on-in-this-picture

A weekly moderated discussion board from *The New York Times* that asks students to analyze and interpret a contemporary photograph.

Describing What You See: Sculpture

smarthistory.org/describing-sculpture

This video produced by Smarthistory demonstrates how to observe and describe a work of art in detail.

EDUCATOR RESOURCE CENTER



The Educator Resource Center can help you expand your pre- and post-visit activities to connect students' museum experience with your classroom curriculum. The ERC offers:

- Curriculum consultations
- Circulating resources
- Professional development workshops

Visit nelson-atkins.org/learn/educator-resources for more information.