



Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art Family Guide

Treasure Hunt:

1. Find the tinfoil record in Fr. Gerrer's Cabinet of Curiosities. What is the name of the steamer on board which the record was discovered?
2. The museum contains a relic of Pope Saint Pius X. It is an article of clothing and is located in a case near his portrait. What is it?
3. Look for the ancient Egyptian canopic jars. Who was the god that protected the stomach?
4. In the Greek/Roman case, a small Greek amphorae (clay vessel) is decorated with a bird to honor the goddess Hera. What type of bird is it?
5. Look in the Asian case. Why were crickets kept by the ancient Chinese?
6. How long did it take the Chinese to preserve eggs in the massive egg jars?
7. What beast is represented on the lid of the medieval Ivory Jewelry Box?
8. What were the medieval wooden sculptures of the Madonna and Child called? (hint: the Latin term is *Sedes Sapientiae*).
9. There are 5 animals depicted in Guilio Romano's painting *Adoration of the Magi*. What are they?
10. What culture created the *Bird Flute* located in the pre-Columbian gallery?
11. What material did the Bamana people of Mali, Africa, use to create the *Antelope Headdress*?
12. What is the boy eating in Ernst Muller's *The Lunch*?
13. What type of animal skin is found in Gerome's painting, *Femme en Serail*? What type of feathers?
14. What function does Laurie Spencer's ceramic sculpture "Organic" serve? Can you name some of the types of fruits and vegetables that lend their shapes to this piece?

Exploring a painting:

Everyone sees art in a different way. Explore your unique vision by getting to know a painting in the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art.

1. Pick a painting that you like.
2. What do you see first? (Color? Shapes? Figures?)
3. Look more closely. Name all of the different things that you can see. (objects, shapes, lines, textures)
4. What is the overall arrangement of the elements in the painting? How are the *colors* placed? Are they cool or warm, bright or subdued? Are there light and dark areas of *value*? Are the *textures* smooth, soft, or rough? Are the *lines* curving, straight, or jagged?
5. Is there a *center of interest* in the painting, a place that draws your attention? How did the artist show you where it is?
6. Is there a large amount of empty *space* in the painting? Is it crowded? Are the objects close to you or far away?
7. What is the *scale* of the piece? Is it a large work that envelopes you or a small work that you must stand very close to in order to appreciate it? Are the objects in the painting very large or small?
8. Is the *proportion* correct? Do the objects in the painting look to be the right size in comparison with one another? For example, does the person's head look to be the right size for his body; are the cows bigger than the trees; is the tea pot smaller than the cup?
9. When you look at the painting, do you feel like you're looking through a window into part of the real world, or do you feel like you're looking at an image from someone's imagination?
10. Is there a story, an idea, or a feeling expressed in this painting?
11. Why do you like it?

Word/Speak:

1. Each family member should select a word from the following list:

Wealth	Power	Love
Honor	Courage	Strength
Generous	Suffering	Proud
Surprise	Shock	Tension
Peace	Comfort	Beauty
Justice	Fairness	Anger
Protection	Happiness	Chaos

2. Then, walk quietly through the museum for 10 minutes, looking at the artworks.
3. Each family member should choose an artwork that communicates the concept represented by the chosen word and spend a few minutes deciding why.
4. Finally, take turns explaining to your family why the chosen artworks reflect the chosen words.