Grades 3-5

Topic: Let’s Get Together! Family Fun with Art Making and Looking at Art – Level 11

Welcome families! We are so glad you are visiting us during the Spring Break. We have put together a great collection of links and suggested activities for you and your elementary school children. If you have older children, make sure they join in too and make this a family experience. For the artmaking activities, you will work separately and together. When you have explored the sites, and have made all of your artwork, put it all together into a Family Art Exhibition. And remember to take out your phone and take pictures of your work!

Working as a Family – The Art of Collaboration

You are going to spend several days making art separately and together. After you finish all of your artmaking, you will decide as a family, how to set up your Family Art Exhibition.

That takes collaboration. Collaboration doesn’t only happen in the kitchen or when you play a team sport like basketball. Some artists also like to work together on creating artworks.

Kelly and Ferris are two artists who like to work together. They even gave themselves a special name. They like to be called KeFe. Can you figure out how they came up with that name?

Take a look at the drawings of KeFe on PBS Kids to get some ideas for your family’s collaborative drawing. You may even want to think about combining all your family member’s name into one and sign your drawing with your new name!

Watch the fun video. Then take a big piece of paper (you even can use newspaper) and make art together. Use pencil, pens, markers, or crayons. This can be the first work of art for your Family Art Exhibition.

The Art of Collaboration with KeFe

https://www.pbs.org/video/art-school-art-collaboration-kefe
Many artists like to use sketchbooks to try out their ideas. Click here to watch how Elizabeth Murray uses her sketchbook. It looks like she is having a lot of fun.

Wander around the website and learn so much from Elizabeth Murray about her childhood, her art studio, the tools she uses, and what’s in her head. You can even take a tour of MoMA with her!

Back to those sketchbooks...

You can use a composition book (those black and white spotted ones) for your sketchbook. But everyone in the family can make a sketchbook. Here are the steps:

1. Take 5 sheets of plain 8 ½ “ by 11” printer paper and keeping them together, fold in half so that you have a booklet that is 8 ½ “ wide and 5 ½ “ tall.

2. Unfold the papers and with a sewing needle or the end of pair of scissors, poke holes so your sketchbook looks like this. Be very careful and don’t poke yourself!

3. Using strong thread about 16” or 17” long, from the outside of the sketchbook, pull the needle through the middle hole, but remember to leave about 5” hanging without a knot.

4. Weave in and out ending up with a string on the outside. Tie it to the other 5” string.

You also could take about 15-20 pages of drawing paper or computer paper and fasten the sheets together. This can be done using a stapler, fasteners or even sewing them together. Be creative! Just make sure that all the pages are attached.
Hello families! Have you ever heard of the POP artist Andy Warhol? He and a lot of other artists were called Pop artists because they drew, painted, or sculpted popular objects....like things we can buy in a store. His worked showed us that anything...really anything...could be considered art, even a can of soup!

Is there a favorite canned soup, cereal or beverage that you usually have at home? Imagine seeing it in a museum. How would that change the way you think about it? Andy Warhol could help the conversation get started. To learn more about his work and find some inspiration for a fun family artmaking activity, check out the link below. Don't put away that box of cereal. You may want to use it as inspiration.

Design your own piece of pop art inspired by this famous artist.

*But before you click on this link,* have a family conversation about these two **REALLY BIG** art questions:

- What is art?
- Who can be an artist?

Now comes the fun! Here are two activities you can do to make art like Andy Warhol.

1. Each family member, take an item from your kitchen cabinet. It can be a can of soup, a bag of rice, a box of cereal, and so on. It should have the brand name on it. If you have a can or a bottle of soda in your refrigerator, you could use that too.

Make your own Pop Art by drawing the actual object, making it look as realistic as you can.

When it comes time to make your Family Art Exhibition you can use these drawings to create a mini-supermarket in your home.

2. Here’s something else you can do like Andy Warhol. Make a small sketch of a famous person. You can get an image from the newspaper, a magazine or a baseball card. Now take that sketch and repeat it 5 or 6 times! Color each one the same or differently. Andy Warhol did that with many famous people. Add that to your Family Art Exhibition too.
Moving from the Supermarket to Nature for Our Inspiration

Hello families... Let’s go from indoors to the great outdoors! Have you ever been fascinated by the beauty of the natural world? The artist Georgia O’Keeffe was. She painted remarkable canvases of flowers, deserts, clouds and so much more!

Watch and listen to this video from the Tate Museum. It’s of a group of kids discussing what they find inspiring in O’Keeffe’s work. Listen closely at the end when one of the girls says, You can go with a flower, and do what you want to make it your own. What a great comment!

Now click on Who is Georgia O’Keeffe and see her work online. Pick out a favorite and have a conversation with you family!

For more of Georgia’s work go to https://collections.okeeffemuseum.org and click on O’KEEFFE’S ART.

Did you notice that Georgia painted a lot of close-ups of flowers? It’s as if her eye zoomed in on them! Family members can do the same thing. Select an everyday object (for example, a toothbrush, can opener, spoon, cellphone, your shoe). Take a piece of paper in your sketchbooks, or a loose piece of paper, and fill the whole page with a close up of part of your object.

Getting Creative Ideas from Ancient Native Americans

Hello families! We are spending a lot of time washing our hands these days. Let’s have some fun with our soap! Take a look at the link below from MetKids and learn how to make a soap sculpture with a bar of soap, a pencil, plastic knife and paper clip. You may want to share the steps and work together on one soap sculpture! After you show off your sculpture in your Family Art Exhibition, put your sculpture to work and use it to wash your hands. Watch as the soap transforms into a new work of art with every wash.

Let’s look at a video to learn how to use simple materials to make a soap carving.

For some great ideas for simple shapes, check out this link. It will take you to sculptures called bannerstones. They were created by Native American peoples who lived over 4000 years ago in what is now Michigan, Illinois and Ohio. Imagine that!

By the way, archaeologists are not quite sure how these bannerstones were used. They have some ideas (theories) though. What do you think?
Putting It All Together

We hope you had fun working together on these different art activities. Now it’s time to look at all the work you did as a family. Quite an impressive art collection!

Decide as a family how you would like to display the work. Do you want to prop the work up on a few chairs and pieces of furniture? You could put some work up against a closed window. Be creative… and take a few pictures.

In museums, people curate the work. They decide which artwork should go next to which artwork. You decide!