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, encourage them to join in too, and make this a family experience. For the artmaking activities, you can all work separately on some things, but please take the opportunity to also work together.

**Working as a Family – The Art of Collaboration**

After you finish all of your art making, you will decide as a family, how to set up your Family Art Exhibition.

So, get ready to do some artmaking and art arranging together! 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 names 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](https://www.pbs.org/video/art-school-art-collaboration-kefe)
* Starting with Fun Sketches...In Your Hand Made Sketchbook

Many artists like to use sketchbooks to try out their ideas. Watch how Elizabeth Murray uses her sketchbook. It looks like she is having a lot of fun.

www.joy2learn.org/painting-with-elizabeth-murray/my-studio/an-artist-s-notebook

Explore the website and learn from Elizabeth Murray herself 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 sketchbooks!

If you have a composition book (those black and white spotted ones), you could use that for your sketchbook. But everyone in the family can also make a sketchbook. Here are the steps. It’s best if a grown-up in the family helps you make your sketchbook.

Take 5 sheets of plain 8½” by 11” printer paper and keeping them together, fold in half so that you have a booklet that is 8½” wide and 5½” tall.

1. Unfold the papers and, with a sewing needle or the end of pair of scissors, poke holes so your sketchbook looks like this.

2. Be very careful not to poke yourself! Adults please assist.
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 of the holes, 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.

When you have filled up your sketchbook, you can show off your work in your Family Art Exhibition.
*What Do You Notice about Patterns in Clothing? Look, and Make Art!*

Lots of the clothing we wear has patterns. Do you think a clothing pattern could inspire a work of art? The artist Lubaina Himid does! Here is a little story about what can happen when families do things together.

Lubaina was born in Zanzibar, but when she was only 4 months old she moved to England with her family. Lubaina’s mother was a textile (fabric) designer, and would often point out to her the different colors and patterns in the clothing worn by the people they saw out on the street. They also would go to stores together and look at the clothing in different shops. What Lubaina and her mother saw became a very important part of the artwork Lubaina makes now as a grown-up. Her mother really helped her! This is what Lubaina says about her mom:

*I was living with a woman who was constantly looking at the color of things, at other people’s clothes.*

*And we were constantly in shops, and we weren’t at shops buying things. We were in shops looking.*

Lubaina learned a lot about shapes and colors through looking. What kind of things do you look at everyday? *Sometimes we don’t even think about what we are looking at.*

Take a look at the link below to see Lubaina’s work. You’ll discover much more about who she is and what inspires her. As you look at her work, you will see that she often uses patterns. Do you wonder if she thinks about her mother when she makes these patterns?

Can you make a work of art inspired by something someone in your family is wearing?

Can they make a work of art inspired by what you are wearing?

Look at Lubaina’s work and try it!
You can work alone or together, but remember to include the work in your Family Art Exhibition.

https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-lubaina-himid

* Fun with MetKids

The Metropolitan Museum of Art is closed for a while but they have great ideas for artmaking on their website https://www.metmuseum.org/art/online-features/metkids. Click on the link and you have a choice of three great options to explore the museum from home:

* **Explore the Map** and look inside the Met and learn about artwork. They have a lot! Each time you finish with one section, just click on **Map** and return to the big map.

* **Hop in the Time Machine** to explore different times and different places.

* **Watch Videos** There are how-to videos, videos made by kids, and kids interviewing people in the museum. We selected a video for you to watch in this activity.

There will be one more in the next activity. Here goes!

Remember we are making art for your **Family Art Exhibition**. Wouldn’t it be nice to have something that is three-dimensional?

Well, have you ever made a paper plane, folded origami, or made a paper sculpture? Try putting your folding skills to the test. Check out the link below at MetKids to learn how to make a paper samurai helmet. https://www.metmuseum.org/art/online-features/metkids/videos/Fold-an-Origami-Samurai-Helmet

All you need is a large sheet of paper or newspaper!

Remember, the how-to video can always be replayed if you miss a part of the instructions.

Adults, if you go to www.metmuseum.org/art/collection you can search **samurai armor** and find a great picture to show the family.
* Fun with Art....Strike a Pose

Have you ever used your body to communicate a mood or feeling? Of course you have! We communicate with our bodies as much as we do with our words. Kids how are you feeling right now? Show your family just by using your bodies, no words.

Check out this short video from MetKids to get some ideas: https://www.metmuseum.org/art/online-features/metkids/videos/MetKids-Pose-Like-a-Sculpture

Now it’s time for everyone to strike a pose! To add to your Family Art Exhibition, use your phone to take photos of each other posing like statues at The Met. If you can print them out, add the photos to the exhibition. OR you can look at the photos on your phone, and draw them, and add the drawings to the exhibition.

Browse the MET’s online collection at www.metmuseum.org/art/collection for more inspiration. If you have lots of family around you may want to try recreating some of the poses in a painting such as Washington Crossing the Delaware by Emanuel Leutze. Here it is.

Washington Crossing the Delaware by Emanuel Leutze

You can get a full-screen version by clicking on this link: https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/11417
There are many other paintings and sculptures on the Met website that you can use as inspiration for your own family's poses at home.

* 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!

For your Family Art Exhibition 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 who work for the museum curate, or select and organize, the work. They decide which pieces of art to display, and which artwork should go next to which artwork. In your family museum, you decide!