

Teachers: We are excited to have you and your students visit the Fresno Art Museum. Here is some pre-visit information for you, your chaperones, and your students:

Sometimes kids get too many rules—so we want to get the rules out of the way up front and make learning them a fun and interactive activity. We want you to give the students the reasons behind some of the rules and have them figure out why other rules exist. They can usually guess.

The brochure “**What is a Museum?**” is provided for each of your students to keep. We hope it helps to demystify what an art museum is and gets the students excited about their field trip. We want your students’ visit to be positive and memorable so that your students will be encouraged to return again and again over the coming years.



You may distribute the brochure to each of your students and talk to them about what a museum is and about these rules before your visit.

If it's your **first** or
100th visit to an
ART MUSEUM we want
to make it **fun** and memorable...

What is a Museum?

A **museum** is a building that protects, preserves, and displays objects (artifacts) of interest or significance. The **objects** can be **artistic**, cultural, scientific, and/or **HISTORICAL**. A museum is a place you can go to **look**, explore, learn, and enjoy.

ART MUSEUMS are usually supported by members (you could be **one**), government and private grants, **sponsors** (people or businesses who **love** the arts), events, and renting the museum space to the **public** for things like parties or weddings.

When visiting a museum, you do not touch the art or artifacts:

You can explain why you can't touch the artifacts and objects in a museum. Or better yet, let your students try to guess why.

And what's the reason? We can't touch because our fingers contain dirt and oils, even after we just wash them. Suggest that the students should imagine if everyone at school touched the same object in a museum, it would eventually become dirty and oily or damaged, especially with things like paintings, sculptures, or works made of paper, they could fall apart or change color, or you could accidentally break or puncture something, and future visitors would not be able to experience and enjoy the work. You can explain that curators and preparators that work in a museum wear special white gloves when they touch artifacts in order to protect them. They also

are carefully trained in how to handle and care for the artifacts, as they are responsible for preserving them and making sure they are safe while they are in their care.

You can try this experiment: Fold a white piece of paper in half and pass it around the classroom, only touching the outside. After everyone has touched it, open the paper and compare the wrinkles on the touched side to the untouched side. You can also try rubbing your fingers together until they get hot. You should be able to feel the oils that come out of your fingertips



Photography is NOT allowed in certain exhibitions in the Fresno Art Museum

There are two reasons you can't take picture of the art. Since students may not fully understand copyright issues, here are some suggestions to explain the reasons behind this rule:

- (1) Artists often don't want you to take pictures of their work because they don't want anyone to copy it unless the artist says it's okay or unless you pay to copy it. Artists often study art for many years and work many hours to create a work in an art museum. The artists want you to appreciate it and enjoy it during your visit. Suggest that students think about movies and music—it is illegal to copy work for free. Artists want to be valued, just like you value a plumber who comes and fixes your sink or the mechanic who fixes your parents' car. Copying artists without asking or compensating them is not valuing them. Artists have to eat and pay rent, too. In some galleries, the artists have given permission to take photos with a cell phone. You will be told where you can and can't photograph upon your arrival at the Museum.
- (2) Light can be harmful to artwork, so flash photography is a definite no-no in a museum. Tell the students to note the dim lights when they visit the museum. That is done to help protect the artwork from light damage. Prolonged light exposure can make colors fade and look dull.

You may ask your students questions to see if they can guess why there are other rules in the Museum. Here are some ideas:

- **Can you guess why you can't eat or drink in the Museum?** (Answers to look for: You could spill something causing someone to slip and fall; or you could get food or drink on the artwork and damage it.)
- **Can you guess why you can't run, skip, or rough house? Can you guess why you can't scream and yell?** (Answers to look for: You could crash into things, people, or artwork. You could fall and get hurt, or hurt someone else, or damage or break something. You could disturb other people that are trying to look at the artwork or listen to a docent or have a quiet discussion with a friend.)
- **Can you guess why you can only write or draw with a pencil in the Museum?** (Answers to look for: Ink pens are usually permanent and if you make a mistake you might get some ink on a wall, on the floor, or, worst of all, on an artwork. If you make a mistake with a pencil, it's easier to erase.)



We strongly encourage you to introduce your students to three of the elements of art (line, shape, and color) prior to visiting the Museum to make the trip even more beneficial to your students. You have been provided with some simple and fun pre-visit lesson plans to introduce these art concepts.

To make your trip successful, please share this information with your chaperones and other staff that may accompany you and your students to the Museum.

Questions regarding your visit to FAM:
Call or email Susan at 559-441-4221 x 101 or
Susan@FresnoArtMuseum.org

Questions regarding bus and scheduling, please
contact Yolanda Serna at (559) 248-7172
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