

# Welcome to your on-site field trip

Thank you for reserving an on-site field trip at the National Museum of Asian Art. We recommend that you review the logistics PowerPoint with your students before your visit. Students can practice their slow-looking and observation skills by engaging in pre-visit activities found on the Learning Lab Collection for this on-site field trip topic.

Information from the logistics PowerPoint

Welcome to the National Museum of Asian Art!

Located on the National Mall in Washington, DC, the National Museum of Asian Art combines two galleries and houses over 45,000 objects from the Neolithic Period (ca. 7000–1700 BCE) to today.

The **Freer Gallery of Art opened in 1923** as the **first art museum on the National Mall**. The Freer Gallery's collections come from two geographical areas, Asia and the United States. The Asian art collection includes objects from China, Japan, Korea, South Asia, Southeast Asia, the ancient Near East, and the Islamic world.

Detroit-based businessman **Charles Lang Freer** (1854–1919) is the founder of his namesake gallery. He made his fortune in the railroad car manufacturing industry in the mid- to late nineteenth century. In the late 1880s, Freer began to actively collect paintings and works on paper by James McNeill Whistler (1834–1903). Whistler introduced Freer to the arts of Asia, and by 1906, Freer had amassed a considerable number of paintings and ceramics from Japan and China as well as artifacts from the ancient Near East.

The American art collection includes Whistler's Peacock Room, which is the most popular display at the Freer Gallery of Art and was originally a dining room in London!

**Connected to the Freer Gallery, the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery opened in 1987.** In addition to containing its own works of art, the Sackler Gallery features exhibitions of works by living artists and objects on loan from other museums. The founding collection provided by Dr. Arthur M. Sackler (1913–1987) includes ancient Iranian metalwork, Chinese jades and bronzes, and other important works.

# Museum Guidelines

- Once you enter the museum, please treat the museum with respect
- Keep food, beverages, and gum outside the museum
- Walk in the galleries
- When looking at the artworks, keep your hands to yourself and examine the art with your eyes only
- Keep a safe distance from the art, walls, and object cases

Please make sure to bring your questions about the objects from the pre-visit activities.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the museum!

You can see any object in the museum online at: <https://asia.si.edu/collections/>

If you have any questions about the tour, please contact [asiatours@si.edu](mailto:asiatours@si.edu).

## **Next Steps for Reserved Tours Only**

Discuss your tour when the NMAA docent contacts you in advance.

Please return any messages as soon as possible.

Divide your class into groups of about ten students each prior to arrival.

## **Arrival**

Enter NMAA through the Freer Gallery via the National Mall entrance at 12th Street and Jefferson Drive SW, unless the docent asks you to use a different entrance for the tour. Leave all bags, lunches, and coats on the bus or at your school whenever possible. Security officers will inspect all bags brought into the museum.

## **Arrival for Reserved Tours Only**

Arrive at least ten minutes before the start of your tour. A late arrival could result in a shorter tour.

## **Cancellation and Changes**

Call or contact the tour scheduler and the docent assigned to your tour immediately.

Email [AsiaTours@si.edu](mailto:AsiaTours@si.edu) to report all cancellations and changes.

## **Parking**

Timed parking for cars and vans around the National Mall is limited, and the three-hour posted regulations are enforced. Parking is also available in nearby commercial lots and garages.

## **Bus Parking**

Buses can park on a first-come, first-served basis in several areas around the museums. For information, please contact the Mall Operations Office of the National Park Service at 202.426.6841.

## **Where to Eat**

NMAA does not offer facilities for eating. For information on dining locations, go to [si.edu/dining](https://si.edu/dining).

## **Vision, Learning, and Mobility Considerations**

Prior to your visit, please discuss specific needs with your NMAA docent or the NMAA tour scheduler. Subject to availability, we can provide tours in some foreign languages, in sign language, and for visitors with visual impairments.

# Pre-visit Activities

To prepare your students for their field trip, we have adapted two Thinking Routines developed by Harvard University Project Zero's Artful Thinking. Feel free to adapt to your students' needs.

## Looking: Ten × Two

Supply each student with paper and a pencil. Project the image found on the Learning Lab Collection for this on-site field trip. Students will look at the artwork quietly and without writing for at least 30 seconds.

**List ten words or phrases on your paper about the work you noticed.**

**Let's look at the artwork again for 30 seconds.**

**List another ten words or phrases about the work.**

**Share your observations with a partner. Which similarities in words and phrases emerge?**

**What did your partner and classmates see differently from your observations?**

Discuss observations as a class.

## See/Think/Wonder

Supply each student with paper and a pencil. Project the image found on the Learning Lab Collection for this on-site field trip. Students will look at the artwork quietly for one minute without writing.

**What do you see?**

**What does this work of art make you think about?**

**What does this work of art make you wonder? What questions do you have?**

Write down your observations to answer these three questions using complete sentences, stating **I see..., I think..., and I wonder...**

Please make sure to back up your interpretations by including what you see in the artwork or what you think you know about the artwork.

Share your responses as a class.

# Post-visit Activities

Thank you for visiting the National Museum of Asian Art. We hope you enjoyed the museum field trip.

## **My Favorite Object**

Write a letter to your friend or family about your **favorite object** from the field trip.

What object did you like the most from your field trip to the museum?

Describe the object and the reason you like it.

Draw a picture of your favorite object from the field trip to share with your friends and family.

## **I used to think..., now I think....**

Students will discuss how their thinking has changed after their on-site field trip.

Students can work individually or work in a Think-Pair-Share discussion.

## **What did you think about Asian art before the field trip? What do you think now?**

Let's reflect on your museum field trip, starting with "I used to think..."

Then, write your response stating, "Now I think..."

## **Post-visit Teacher Resources**

Explore additional websites and content related to the field trip by visiting the Learning Lab Collection for this field trip topic.