

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Conservation Activities for Kids

Explore conservation topics through fun crafts!

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Shadow Art

Explore how light can damage art

Do you know why museums are often dimly lit? It's because the energy from light can cause materials to fade and weaken. Watch this in action: cut out shapes and gently tape them onto construction paper. Leave the paper in a window and then after several weeks remove the shapes. See how much the background has faded!



Object Puzzle

Practice fixing broken objects

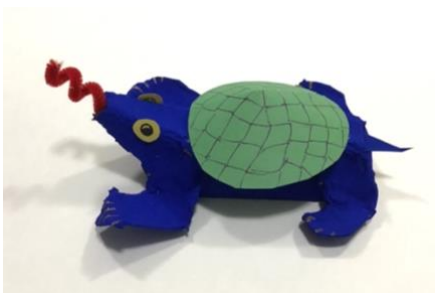
Many objects in our collections are hundreds—even thousands—of years old, and it's natural that some have broken. Our conservators are skilled at repairing objects—some with over twenty-five pieces. Try it for yourself by printing an image of artwork, cutting it into pieces, and putting it back together.



Tissue Paper Art

Protect fragile artwork

Did you know the paintings in hanging scrolls are incredibly thin and fragile? The hanging scroll provides layers of support behind and around the painting to protect it. Try it for yourself by gluing tissue paper in the shape of your favorite flower onto construction paper. Notice how the additional layer makes it stronger.



Outdoor Sculpture

Explore how materials change

Outdoor art must be kept safe through rain, snow, heat, and cold. How will your art fare outdoors? Build a sculpture using materials you have at home (tin foil, cardboard, pipe cleaners, etc.). Leave it outside and check on it every day. What materials changed and why?



Sticky Fingers

Look but don't touch

When you touch glass, it's easy to see the oily fingerprints left behind. Did you know fingerprints can damage art? At home, attach white paper to a piece of cardboard and cover half of it with plastic wrap. Hang it near a doorway and touch the paper each time you pass. How does the uncovered half look after a few weeks?



Color Matching

Practice inpainting

Let's say a painting has some holes. A conservator will fill them in to prevent more damage, but that leaves blank spots. To keep these from distracting viewers, a conservator may "inpaint" the spots to match the painting's background color. Try it yourself: mix paints to match the background color of your favorite artwork.