SELF-GUIDES TO
THE ART INSTITUTE OF
CHICAGO

How to Use the Ancient Art and Ideas through the Ages Self-Guides

The following self-guides, Ancient Art and Ideas through the Ages, provide students with the opportunity to discover the impact of ancient Greece and Rome on art from later periods. These three age-appropriate self-guides will lead students to related objects in the collections of American arts, European decorative arts, European painting, and Modern and contemporary painting and sculpture. Photocopy the appropriate self-guide for students to use at the museum, or adapt all three of them to meet your students' needs.

Prior to using these self-guides at the museum, prepare your students in the classroom by using this Art of the Ancient Mediterranean World: Egypt, Greece, Italy teacher manual.

In the classroom:
• look for “Ancient Mediterranean Connections” referenced under each object included on the self-guide
• prepare your students by discussing and showing them transparencies or slides of these “Ancient Mediterranean Connections”

At the museum,
• a teacher or chaperone must accompany students at all times.
• remind students to look, not touch.
• remind students to use pencil only.
• remind students not to use cases, pedestals, or walls as writing surfaces.
• consult a museum map for gallery locations and/or ask a security guard for assistance in finding specific galleries.

Because objects in the museum’s collection often rotate or may be loaned for a special exhibition, some of the works listed in this guide may not be in the galleries at the time of your visit.
ANCIENT ART AND IDEAS THROUGH THE AGES
A Self-Guide to Related Objects for Middle School Students

Art from ancient Greece and Rome had a profound impact on art through the ages. Ancient myths, architecture, artistic styles, clothing, and history can be found in American, European, and 20th-century works of art. Explore these works of art to discover their connections to the ancient world!

Go to the American Arts galleries

Resembling an ancient Greek or Roman goddess, this marble bust actually portrays an allegorical image of America. Her crown sports 13 stars, representing the Union's original states.

• Name two features of America that most closely resemble those of an ancient Greek or Roman sculpture.

_______________________ and ____________________ .

• According to the artist, Hiram Powers, this sculpture was intended to honor the nation's democratic values. Why was it appropriate for Powers to create this democratic image in the style of ancient Greek and Roman sculpture?


(Ancient Mediterranean Connections; Statue of Aphrodite of Knidos, image 17; Portrait Head of the Emperor Hadrian, image 16)
Go to the European Painting galleries

This bronze statue portrays the mythical Greek hero Hercules defeating the giant Antaeus. Antaeus was a mighty wrestler whose strength was invincible so long as he remained in contact with his mother Earth. He compelled all strangers who came to his country to wrestle with him, on condition that if conquered they would be put to death.

- Based on what you see, how is Hercules going to defeat the giant Antaeus?
- What two traits did Hercules have to use to defeat this mighty wrestler?

![Image of Hercules and Antaeus]

No one knows exactly why Venus is lecturing Jupiter while the rest of the Olympian gods gather around them. However, this scene may relate to an episode of the Trojan War, a conflict in which many gods took an active interest.

- How does the artist portray Mount Olympus?
- Find these gods and identify the attribute (identifying object)

(see Greek and Roman Gods and Goddesses, page 159) by which you recognized each:

![Image of Minerva, Mercury, Diana, Mars, Cupid, Juno, Jupiter, Venus, Apollo, Hercules]

152
In 1787, the French artist Hubert Robert was hired to create four large paintings for a wealthy businessman’s home. Paintings of ancient ruins were popular at the time due to the recent discovery of Pompeii, which was destroyed by the volcano Vesuvius in A.D. 79.

- List the Classical architectural elements you see in this painting (see page 137).

\[\text{Gallery 220}\]
Hubert Robert (1733–1808)
The Fountains, 1787/88
Oil on canvas

- Go to the Modern and Contemporary Art galleries

When Pablo Picasso visited Rome in 1917, he was deeply impressed by the city’s ancient art. One year later his first child was born, inspiring him to make a series of paintings on the theme of mother and child.

- What part(s) of this painting reminds you of sculpture from ancient Greece and Rome?

\[\text{Gallery 243}\]
Pablo Picasso (1881–1973)
Mother and Child, 1921
Oil on canvas

Because objects in the museum’s collection often rotate or may be loaned for special exhibitions, some of the works listed in this guide may not be in the galleries at the time of your visit.

This self-guide is adapted from a winning lesson plan submitted by Ms. Katherine Bradley from Greenhills School in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

- What other connections to ancient Greece and Rome can you find at The Art Institute of Chicago?