Play Ball

Calling all sports fans! Throughout history, artists have shown ways to have fun, make friends, and stay healthy. As you walk through the galleries, look for art about your favorite game or sport.

A Game of Hoops

**Gallery 171**

This foursome is playing a game similar to golf called croquet. Using a mallet, players take turns hitting a ball through a series of hoops arranged in the grass. These people are dressed in fashions of their day, not exactly what we would wear to play in the park!

- What is the man kneeling on the ground doing?
- How many hoops and balls can you find?

A Day in the Park

**Gallery 240**

The people in this large painting are enjoying a visit to a small island near Paris, France. The painting is made up of many small strokes of paint. Stand close to see the different colors and then look from far away to see the whole scene. What outdoor activities are people doing?

Find
- a little girl skipping on one foot
- rowers leaning forward in their boat
- a person fishing
The Days of Knights

Gallery 236

Knights wore armor not only in battle, but also during sporting events. This half suit of armor was worn during tournaments fought on foot. Opponents tried to hit each other with swords from behind a barrier that protected their lower bodies.

• What sports today require you to wear equipment similar to what you see here?
• Find a mark from battle above the eye slit of the helmet.

The Agony of Defeat

Gallery 136

One way that artists capture the energy and action of sports is by showing people in motion. This Mayan stone panel shows two kings playing a ball game. One player dives to return the ball to his opponent. To score points, the players hit the ball with their hips. They wore protective padding so the heavy ball would not injure them.

• Try standing like the ballplayers to see how it felt to play this game.
• Who do you think won this game? Why?

For more family fun, visit the Ryan Education Center, where you can pick up a Family Programs brochure and explore family-friendly spaces, programs, and exhibitions. Be sure to sign up for our family e-newsletter. For more information or to register for programs, visit www.artinstituteofchicago.org and click on “families.” Questions? Call (312) 857-7161.