

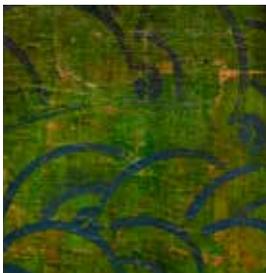
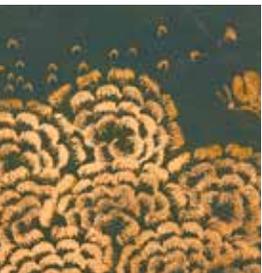
Birds of a Feather F|S Kids



James McNeill Whistler worked for months to transform this dining room, which belonged to his friend Frederick Leyland in London, into a painted work of art. He added thin sheets of gold to the doors and woodwork, and he painted patterns of peacock feathers on the walls and ceiling. He even painted four large peacocks on the window shutters. Look up at the ceiling. How did he paint on such a hard-to-reach surface?

Finding Feathers

Whistler thought of peacock feathers when he painted the wavy patterns around the room. Find the different ways Whistler painted peacock feathers.



When Friends Become Enemies

Leyland was surprised and angry when he saw Whistler's extensive redecoration to his dining room. He refused to pay the full asking price for the artist's work. Furious and disappointed by Leyland's reaction, Whistler painted a mural of the former friends, showing them as fighting peacocks.



Talk About It

Which peacock do you think represents Leyland, the wealthy businessman? Which one is the artist?

One peacock has silver and gold coins on its chest. More coins are scattered around its feet. That one is Leyland.

Pretend the peacocks can talk to each other. What would they say? If they could move, what might happen next?

Action Figures

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Be on the watch for these towering guardian figures. They once stood outside a Buddhist temple in Japan. There, they protected the Buddha and his worshipers against evil. Their large size, fierce expressions, and bulging muscles show their power and strength.

Strike a Pose!

Pretend you are a guardian figure and imitate a pose. What's on your mind? How do you feel? Strong? Fierce? Shy? Small?

Compare the Figures

Look at both of the Guardian Figures and describe them below. How are they the same? How are they different?

	Same	Different
Facial Expressions		
Body Placement		
Clothes		
Other Details		

Did You Notice?

One figure has its mouth open, while the mouth of the other one is closed. The sculpture with its mouth open is saying *ah*, the sound at the beginning of the ancient Sanskrit language used in the land where Buddhism began. The other guardian is saying *om*, the last sound of the Sanskrit alphabet. Together these figures protect the Buddha and his followers from A to Z, that is, from beginning to end.

True Colors

Centuries ago these guardian figures were painted, but the colors have worn off because they were outside.

What colors do you think the sculptures were originally? Where?

How would colors make the figures seem different?



The Monkeys and the Moon

One dark night, monkeys resting in a tall tree looked down and saw the moon in a pool of water far below them. The moon had fallen from the sky! Wanting to scoop it up, the monkeys worked together to link their arms and tails into a long chain. Finally, the little monkey at the end of the chain reached out to touch the moon in the water. It was surprised when the moon disappeared in the shimmering ripples. Looking up, the monkeys saw the moon was still in the night sky. What they had seen was just a reflection that disappeared on the water.

Monkey Talk

What do you think this folktale means?

What lessons can we learn from this story?

Monkeys in Many Languages

When Xu Bing imagined the folktale as a large sculpture, he started by drawing the word *monkey* in 21 different languages. He used the drawings to make three-dimensional shapes that hook together and form a chain of monkeys that stretches 80 feet from floor to ceiling.

Draw!

Look at the different parts of one monkey—its head, arms, legs, and tail. Try to match the monkeys to three languages shown on the object label. Now it's your turn to draw a monkey using only letters.





Shiva is a major Hindu god. This bronze sculpture shows Shiva as the Lord of Dance (*Nataraja*). Through his sacred dance, Shiva destroys and recreates the universe. His four arms represent his extraordinary power. He holds the fire of cosmic destruction in his upper left hand, and he creates the universe again with the beat of the drum in his upper right hand.

Hold That Pose

Find three words that describe the way Shiva stands in this sculpture. Challenge someone to pose like Shiva. Who held the pose longer? How did it feel to balance this way?

Looking Closer

Many Hindu sculptures have clues that point to the importance and special abilities of a god or goddess. Find these details to learn more about Shiva Nataraja.



End of Ignorance

Shiva defeats stupidity and foolishness by crushing the demon of ignorance.



Ring of Fire

He uses a cosmic ring of fire to destroy the universe.



Wavy Hair

From the force of his dance, Shiva's long hair moves around his head.

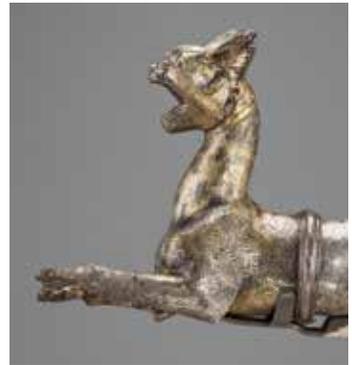


Lotus Petals

Blooming fresh and white from muddy water, the lotus flower represents purity.

Live Like a King

F|S Kids



Over 2,000 years ago, the Parthians ruled over a vast region of West Asia that stretched from central Turkey to eastern Iran. They used silver and gold plates, bowls, and cups at their banquets. One unusual object was a drinking horn, known as a *rhyton*. At the end of this rhyton is a fierce lynx ready to attack. Imagine the king using it to drink the best wine in one long gulp from a small spout at the bottom.

Let's Party

The Parthians enjoyed fancy feasts. One special occasion was Nowruz, the Persian New Year celebrated on the first day of spring. What is your favorite holiday? Which special food do you eat on that day?

Animals Galore

Walk around *Feast Your Eyes*. How many other animals can you find here? Pick three of your favorites and write one word that best describes each of them.

Favorite Animals

Descriptive Words

Make Your Own Rhyton

Pretend you are having your own royal party. How would you design your rhyton? Which animal would you include? Draw your rhyton here.

