

# Learn with Us: Lessons in Your Classroom

*Teachers can select a theme or topic from the following:*

## **In-Focus: Warrior Figure**

Delve into the world of Ancient China through looking closely at *mingqi* (spirit objects). We'll learn about tombs, the afterlife, and will make connections between works of art in the Johnson's collection, and the world-famous Terra-Cotta Army.

## **In-Focus: Jaguar Jar**

We will uncover the purpose of a Mesoamerican ceramic jug from around 1200 CE. After discussing the power of animal symbolism, we will learn about the ceremonial ritual this jug would have been used for.

## **Climate Change**

Artists from around the world are responding to climate change. We'll learn how artists can raise awareness about this issue, while also helping the natural environment by finding creative uses for materials.

## **Immigration**

Art can help us understand the perspective of people who have chosen or been forced to migrate. We will use sculptures, installations, and photographs to discuss the reasons for and effects of migration, in different time periods and parts of the world.

## **Social Justice**

Fighting for social justice through art can look like raising awareness about societal wrongs, and working to imagine a more just future. We'll explore artworks related to pressing current issues.

## **Masks**

Examples from our portable touch collection will help us get up close to a variety of masks from different cultures. We'll investigate how symbols, colors, and material vary based on the mask's origin and function.



## Coding

What is the connection between coding and art? We will talk about different types of code—from binary code to musical notes—and will explore how artists can visually encode information, or use computer code to design works of art.

## Face-to-Face

We will meet a variety of friends through looking closely at portraits and self-portraits. These works of art can serve as starting points for discussions based on themes of identity, symbolism, representation, and self-presentation.

## Four-Footed Friends

Learn about the menagerie of lovely beasts in the Johnson Museum! We'll practice talking about all kinds of creatures, both real and imagined.

## Storytelling

What stories can we find in a work of art? How do artists use different materials to tell stories? How can we draw inspiration from a work of art to create a story of our own?

We will discover stories connected to an array of artworks from around the world, and learn how artists work with different elements of a story, including character, plot, and setting. Students will have the opportunity to practice writing and telling stories of their own.

## Art & Nature

What can art teach us about the natural environment? How do artists take inspiration from patterns, forms, and colors found in nature? How has human activity changed the natural world?

We will explore the natural environment through art and architecture. Students will learn how nature can be the inspiration, material, or subject matter of a work of art.

## Elements & Principles of Art & Design

How can an artist use lines to convey movement? How can the same material be used to create different textures?

We will learn to identify the formal elements of a work of art. Groups will observe and discuss how different artists have unique approaches to implementing the principles of art and design.

## Expressing Cultures

For classes learning about another culture, bring your curriculum to life with works of art created by artists from cultures around the world. Learn about how art can express cultural identity across time.

Our permanent collection supports offerings from **China, Japan, Africa, Egypt, and Mesoamerica.**

*Other themes and topics using our temporary exhibitions can also be requested. Visit our website for information on current exhibitions.*