



What is a Create It Kit?

One hundred years ago, the Cleveland Museum of Art opened its doors to the public “for the benefit of all the people forever.” To celebrate its centennial year, the museum hosted a series of exhibitions and loans, special programming and celebrations. In an effort to cap off its centennial year and to begin the next 100 years by investing in children, the museum has partnered with school districts in Cuyahoga County to provide special centennial *Create It Kits* to every third grader.

The Create It Kits were designed in partnership with Cleveland’s own American Greetings to help children connect to the museum’s collection through a creativity journal, art supplies and a free Art Explorers children’s membership to the museum.

Use #Createitkit to share you and your family’s creativity on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

Why creativity?

There are many reasons to encourage creative expression in children, including:

- being creative and making art help children develop mental, social, and emotional skills;
- drawing and painting improve fine motors skills;
- creating portraits encourages connections to personal identity and connections to the world: self-portraits make a child look inward, while family portraits make a child look outward to define themselves and their family;
- making art boosts self-confidence and the desire for self-expression;
- and talking about the fundamentals of art, including shapes, colors and lines, develops communication skills.

Moreover, making art, talking about art, and visiting art museums create joyful memories that last a lifetime.



What's in a Create It Kit?

The materials in the kits help children discover their inner artist and connect with the museum's collection in countless ways. Each kit includes:

- the *Get Creative* book, which encourages and teaches drawing skills and play;
- art cards that teach about artwork in the museum's collection;
- DIY green paper glasses inspired by a portrait of Nathaniel Olds by Jephtha Homer Wade in the museum's collection;
- information about the free Art Explorers children's membership to the museum;
- and art supplies, including colored pencils, two drawings pencils with an eraser, a pencil sharpener and one pen.





How to Talk about Art

Talking about art might feel hard, but breaking it down into big ideas can help. Remember, when encouraging young artists, avoid giving direction; instead, encourage experimentation and ask questions about their unique artistic processes. This sheet includes some activities to try at home.

Color

Explore how colors come to play in art. Some colors, like red and orange, seem to shout, because they appear to pop out from the artwork's surface. These are called warm colors. Blue and green are cool colors; they appear to recede.

TRY:

- At the museum, find variations of a favorite color. Or try this activity using the museum's website or ArtLens app, available at the App Store and on Google Play.
- Make a portrait of a friend or family member using shades of a single color, such as all blues.

Line & Shape

Lines are all around us. They can be thick, thin, straight, bent, curved, and zigzaggy. Lines come

together to form shapes; many shapes come together to form an entirely different shape.

TRY:

- Trace a line in the air with a finger.
- Walk in a zigzag line. Walk in a curvy line. Walk in the shape of a square.

Textures

Art can be soft, smooth, rough, scratchy, bumpy, prickly, grainy, fuzzy, furry, nubby, crumbly, gritty, lumpy. . . .

TRY:

- At the museum, on the website or in the app, match texture words with artworks from the galleries.
- Use recycled materials, paper and glue to create a bumpy artwork. Then use the same materials to make a smooth one.

How to Talk about Drawing

Many types of artists incorporate drawing skills in their works. Drawings can be made using various types of lines. By changing the thickness, length, size, and texture of a line, artists can represent the world around them.

Artists use a variety of materials, or media, to make their art; each type of media can create different effects. For example, charcoal can be smudged, whereas pencil can create precise lines. Explore several tools for drawing to decide which one feels right.

Simple lines and shapes represent a hectic cityscape full of activity:



Drawing for Label for "City Roofs," 1957. Peter Takal (American, born Romania, 1905–1995). India ink. The Cleveland Museum of Art, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Takal, 1957.208.

Lines create abstract forms:



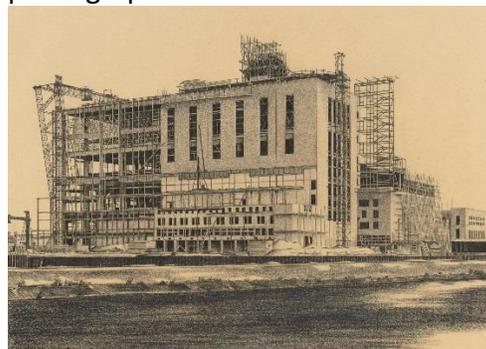
Beyond—Q17, 1977. Louise Nevelson (American, 1900–1988). Black fiber-tipped pen and black paper collage. The Cleveland Museum of Art, Gift of the Print Club of Cleveland, 1977.96. © Estate of Louise Nevelson / Artist Rights Society (ARS), New York

A few lines and color make a portrait with character:



Mother (Black and White Jumper), 1983. R. B. Kitaj (American, 1932–2007). Pastel and charcoal on paper. The Cleveland Museum of Art, Bequest of R. B. Kitaj, 2008.338.

Precise lines create an image that looks like a photograph:



Berlin Power Plant under Construction, 1930. Carl Grossberg (German, 1894–1940). Graphite. The Cleveland Museum of Art, Anne Elizabeth Wilson Memorial Fund, 2002.7.



Visiting the Museum

What can I do?

The museum offers a number of experiences for families. Free programming options include Thursday Art Stories, Second Sundays Family Days and Stroller Tours. Families can also embark on a free scavenger hunt, available at the information desk in the atrium. Visit clevelandart.org/learn to discover more.

When can I come?

Visit often; there is always something new to see and do at the Cleveland Museum of Art! Admission to the galleries is always free, but some special exhibitions have a fee. The museum is open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Why is the sky blue (red, yellow, etc.)?

Explain to children that artists use their imaginations when creating their works, so we can be free to use our imaginations when viewing them.

I want to touch it!

Children can easily grasp the concept that an art object could be damaged if everybody touched it. Preparing them ahead of time to speak in calm voices and look with eyes and not hands helps them to understand how special our art treasures are.

Are strollers permitted in the galleries?

Yes. We also have a limited supply available to visitors at the coat check in the north lobby. "Baby backpacks" are not permitted. Plan to stay no more than 45 minutes, after which children's interest begins to lag. All levels of the museum are accessible by elevators. Parking is safe, close and convenient.

I need to go to the bathroom!

Convenient facilities, including changing tables, make a visit to the museum a pleasant one. Guards can give directions to the nearest restroom.

I'm hungry!

When ready for a break, Provenance Café is stocked with child-friendly treats. High chairs are available.