

SUMMER ART EXPLORERS

ANIMAL ACTIVITIES

Scavenger Hunt

Find 3 animal works of art in the Museum. Write down each animal you find and one word to describe it.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Drawing Challenge

Draw an animal you find in the gallery or draw a pet from home.

Week 1 PLAYING WITH ANIMALS

Each week in June and July, explore the inspiring and extraordinary works of art, exhibitions, and installations at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston! Whether at home or in the galleries, use this guide to take a trip through the Museum and discover different works of art. If you are using this art guide at home, find works of art in the MFAH Collection at mfah.org/art.

ANIMALS IN THE COLLECTION

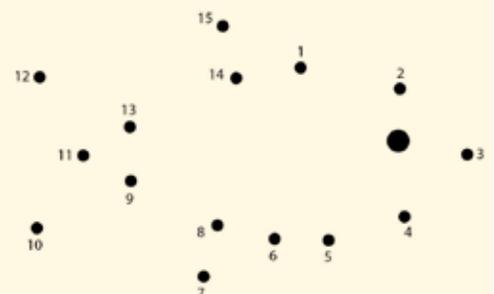
Let's start the conversation!

Use these steps to talk about art with your family.

1. Find a work of art that shows an animal.
2. Spend a few minutes looking at all the details of the work of art. If the artwork is sculptural, try looking at it from different points of view.
3. Share what you noticed about this artwork with your family. Describe what you think the animal might be doing. Can you create a story about the animal that goes along with the artwork?

Connect the Dots

Connect the dots to reveal an image. What animal is it?



MAKE ART AT HOME

Exploring Pets and Creating Your Own Animal Sculptures

Time: 60 minutes

Difficulty level: Medium



Investigate the Work of Art!

1. What are the two main colors that the artist uses in this photograph? Which color stands out the most?

2. The title is *Radioactive Cats*. What clues does the artist give us that something about these cats isn't normal?

3. How does it make you feel to see so many cats in the kitchen? How many cats are there?

Let's Make Some Art!

Gather These Art Materials

- Air-dry clay (Model Magic, Cloud Clay, Sculpey, or any air-dry clay you may have)
- Toothpicks
- Pencil

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Select a pet or favorite animal to be the inspiration for your artwork.
2. Using air-dry clay, start by molding the body of your animal. What general shape does it have?
Is it more circular or oval?
3. Add a head, arms, and legs to your animal. Depending on the animal, you might need to add a tail, horns, or flippers.
4. Use a toothpick or sharpened pencil to poke details into your sculpture, like eyes, nostrils, or a mouth. Try using it to create texture like fur or scales.
5. Look at how many different poses the radioactive cats are in. Showing animals in a realistic pose can bring the sculpture to life.
6. Let your sculpture dry and harden for 24 hours.

Share your finished artwork on social media with #MFAHathome.

Above: Sandy Skoglund, *Radioactive Cats*, 1980, silver dye bleach print, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, gift of Alexandra Marshall, 94.818. © 1980 Sandy Skoglund

Family Programs at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, receive generous support from the Junior League of Houston, Inc.

General admission to the MFAH is free on Thursdays, courtesy of Shell Oil Company.

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