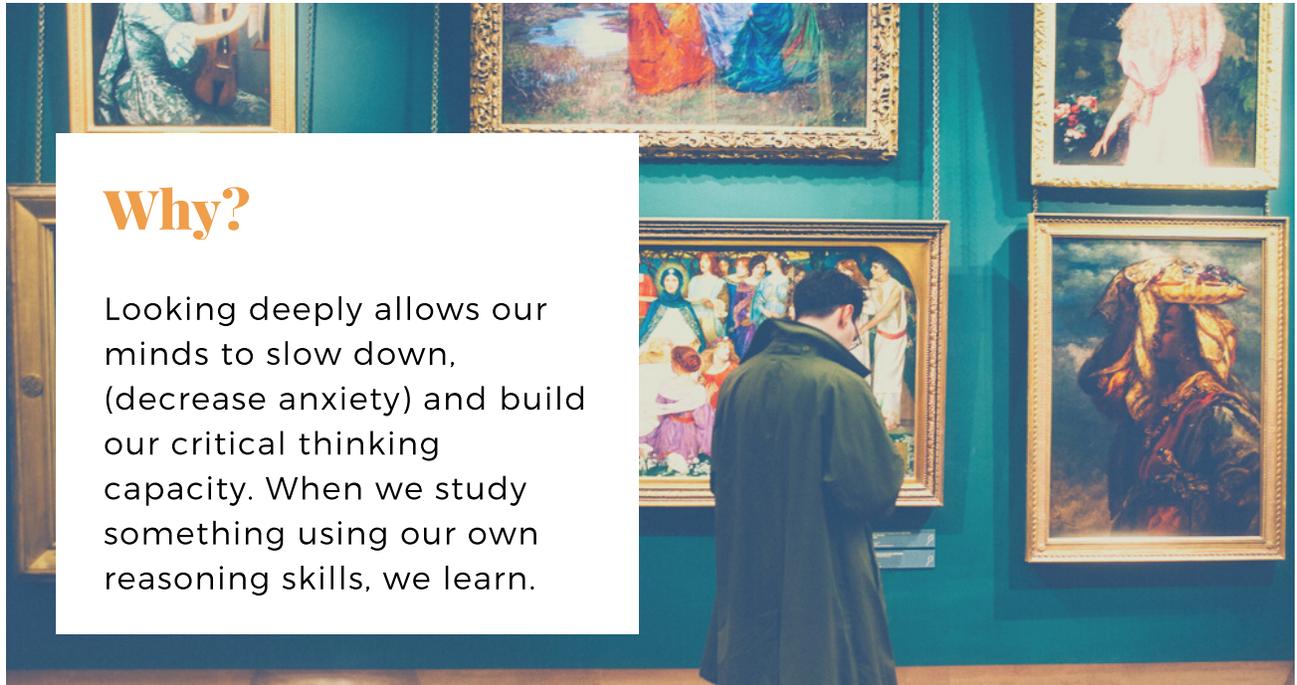


# LOOKING DEEPLY AT HOME

Some Tips from the Chevron Open Minds Glenbow Museum School



## Why?

Looking deeply allows our minds to slow down, (decrease anxiety) and build our critical thinking capacity. When we study something using our own reasoning skills, we learn.

## What do you need?

- A journal for you and each child

Make one if you don't have any. We like a variety of papers stacked, folded in half, and sewn down the middle, but the internet has so many tutorials if you want to get fancy!

- A recording utensil  
anything that works is fine! Don't be shy to try new materials, or go ahead and stick with your favorite.
- Something to explore!  
Anything will do, art in your home or online, a piece of furniture, a heirloom, money, something outdoors - you don't have to know anything about it yourself... you just need to be able to look at it

When we look deeply at art and objects we're allowing our brains to make connections. You can do this any number of ways, but here's our "jump-start method" to deeper inquiry. This process works best if everyone does it, both the adults and the young folks. It models learning, and we use our brain power together.

Step one: Look closely. Spend a whole minute just looking at it. Notice details, colors, shapes, & materials. Pay attention to any questions that come up in your mind. Look from different angles.

Step two: generate some data. Share what you noticed. Allow each other to build on connections. The interesting thing about an object is never "what it is" it's always the stories inside. Look for the stories together.

Step three: record some findings. Making a sketch uses a different part of your brain than just looking. make a sketch with labels, or if drawing isn't your thing, record in other ways. This task is about learning, not judging. Don't be afraid to try to sketch.

Step four: share what you've learned through recording. Did any new details emerge? Do you have any more questions, connections, or ideas now? Write these down too!

Step five: actually touch the object (if you can). Notice new details, and record these as well. Describe the sensory experience. Make connections to other objects or experiences you've had together.

Step six: do some synthesis. We use tools called thinking routines (google if you're interested) to help pull all your data together, and then to analyze it. But you can do this in many ways: generate new questions (and then use your data or research to answer them), make a connection to some other learning and explore it, make art from your data, do some creative writing (a short poem, letter to the object, a paragraph from the object's perspective), more sketching (what materials were used to make this, who made it etc.) the possibilities are literally endless.

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*Looking deeply at art helped me and my mom understand why someone made it, and why it mattered. I guess I didn't really think about it before, I just thought it looked pretty...*

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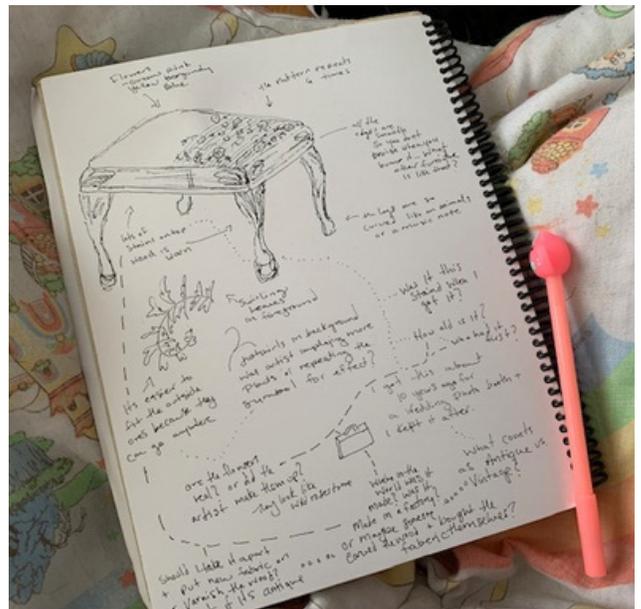
Hope you have fun!  
Follow Glenbow Museum online for museum news, more projects, inspiration and connections.

## Here's an Example...

An ottoman... or any bit of furniture



And some thoughts about it...



A quick synthesis...

When I noticed that the design made it more difficult for bodies to get hurt when I bumped it, I wondered what else around my house was built like that... After a survey we found most furniture in the living room had rounded corners, but nothing in kitchen does... I also noticed that all our vintage and expensive furniture was rounded, while none of our new lesser cost items were... hmmm