



Field Trip Extension

Color, Line, & Shape

GRADES: K-8

During your visit to The Phillips Collection, this tour will concentrate on color, line, and shape, and explore how these elements of art create compositional structure. Focusing on representational art, abstract art, and art that challenges categorization, the tour will foster critical thinking and creative expression. Discussions will use the museum's collection to explore key visual art terms and concepts. Students will learn that there is no right way, no wrong way, and no limits to making art.

Before or after your field trip at The Phillips Collection, consider teaching with one or more of the following lesson plans connected to your tour theme. Adapt these lessons to your classroom by expanding on existing curricular units or sparking ideas for new units. The lessons utilize the Phillips's [Prism.K12 arts integration strategies](#) and include a range of discussion topics, artmaking activities, guiding questions, writing prompts, strategies for looking at art, contextual information, and more.

The Artistic Process of Alma Thomas

SCIENCE

Students will observe and discuss how Alma Thomas made her works and create their own art based on her artistic process and inspirations.

A Sense of Place

ELA, SOCIAL STUDIES

After learning about the lives and styles of artists Alma Thomas and Helen Frankenthaler, students will begin to understand what abstraction is and create their own abstract drawings inspired by places significant to them.

Lawrence's Artistic Process: Shapes and Lines

MATH

After closely looking at Jacob Lawrence's panels, students will identify various lines and the shapes they form. After defining the difference between "geometric" and "biomorphic," students will then create artworks using both kinds of shapes to represent their own neighborhoods.

Art Inspires Art

ARTS

Observe how Jacob Lawrence found inspiration from not only his surroundings, but other artists as well. Students will take a look at a work of art, either in person or virtually, and find inspiration for their own artworks.

Honoring Nature: The Art of David Driskell

SCIENCE

Examining the art of David Driskell, students will understand the importance of nature to his work as well as nature's importance to our world. Students will then discuss ways to protect the environment and create artworks that honor it.

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Sam Gilliam, *Purple Antelope Space Squeeze*, 1987, Diptych: Relief, etching, aquatint and collagraph on handmade paper with embossing, hand-painting and hand-painted collage, 41 1/2 x 81 5/8 in., The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC, Bequest of the Estate of Marion Goldin

PHILLIPS
The Phillips Collection

Color, Line, & Shape

The Abstract Art of Alma Thomas

SCIENCE

Learn about the history of Apollo 11's launch to the moon through Alma Thomas's art. Compare the emotional effects of abstract versus representational art. Then, students will create their own abstract art like Thomas.

A Room with a View

ELA

Through close observation and comparison of window scenes by Pierre Bonnard and Richard Diebenkorn, students will write haikus and dialogues between the two women depicted. Then students will create cards with window scenes on the front, providing a look into their own worlds.

The Great Migration: Traveling the Distance

ELA, MATH

Learn about the Great Migration, understand how and why migrants traveled North, and calculate the distance traveled between cities. Students will reflect on The Great Migration through several writing prompts.

From Representational to Abstract:

The Art of Alma Thomas

ARTS

Students will explore the life and work of Alma Thomas, focusing on how her artistic style changed over time from representational to abstraction. After defining the two styles through close observation of Thomas's art, students will create a two-piece series demonstrating each style.

Lawrence's Artistic Process: Color

MATH

Examining the art of David Driskell, students will understand the importance of nature to his work as well as nature's importance to our world. Students will then discuss ways to protect the environment and create artworks that honor it.

Embrace Your Power Through Art

ARTS, SEL

What makes you powerful? How can you use art to showcase your inner beauty and strengths? Contemporary Black artist Janet Taylor Pickett combines painting and collage to create art about women in Africa. Through movement activities and collage, understand your own identity.

More Than Meets the Eye

ELA, MATH

Compare artworks by Sam Gilliam and Gene Davis to discuss how colors, symbols, and images can depict words, and inquire what purpose they serve in abstract art. Create artworks inspired by these two artists, and learn how to use descriptive words to identify what they see.