



Identity

Stories from the

Culture

Collection of the

and

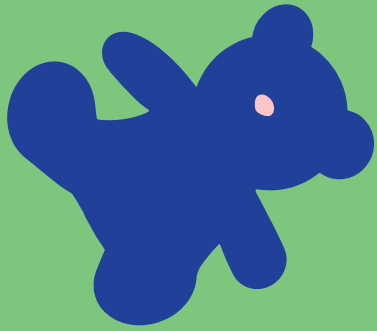
Jewish Museum

Community

Family Guide

A collection is a group of objects or works of art gathered by a person or group of people. Most of the artwork you will see today is part of the Jewish Museum's collection.

Do you collect anything?



If so, what do you like most

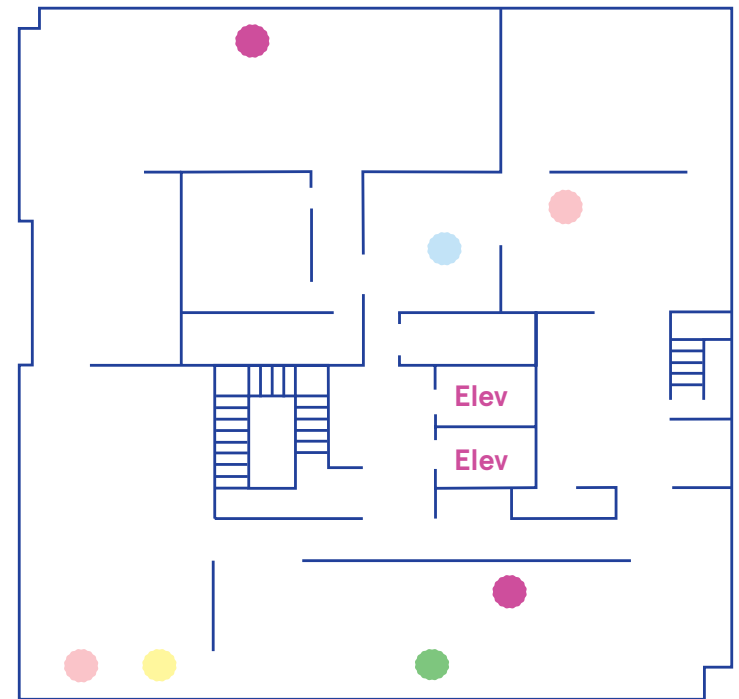


about your collection?

Follow the map to find the artworks on the third and fourth floors of the Museum.

3rd Floor

Galleries



Exit 3rd floor elevators and turn right into the first gallery.

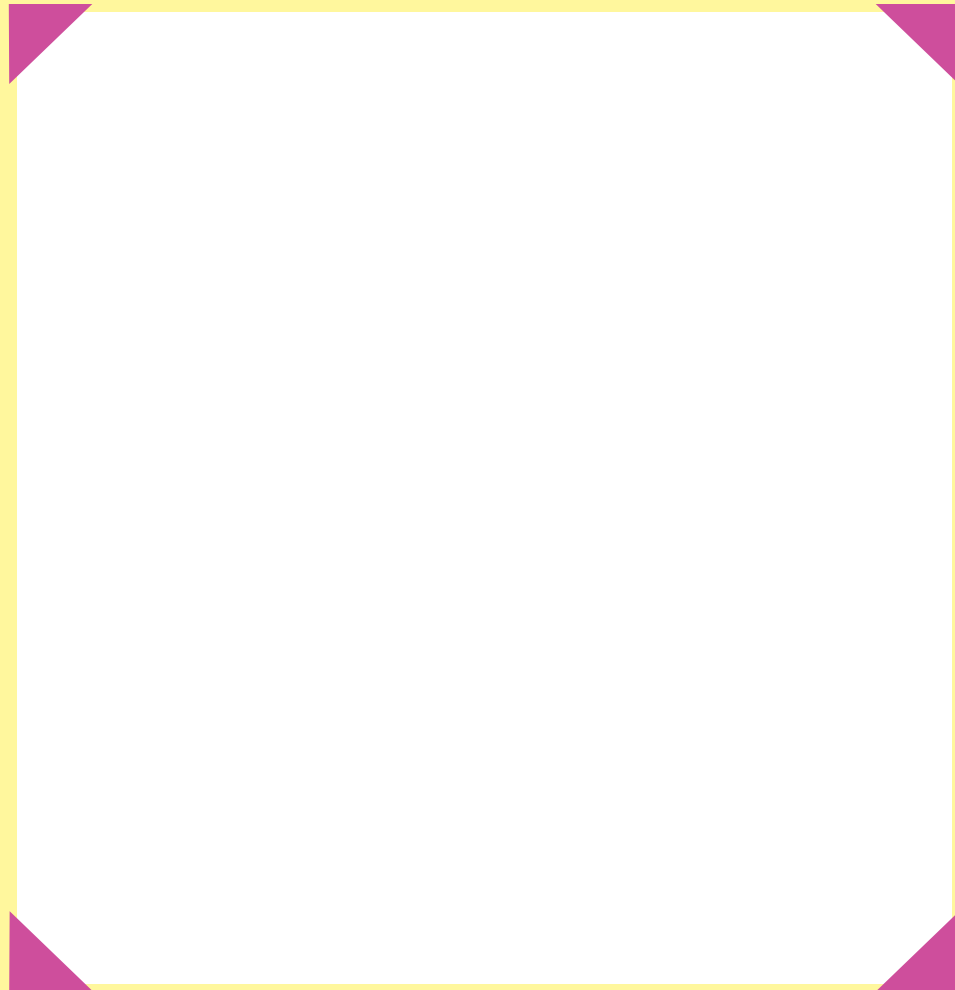
As you enter this first gallery notice the different works of art including paintings, a video, and more.



Choose one work that catches your eye and move closer to it with your grown-up. Examine it for a few seconds. On the count of 3, say the first word that comes to mind after looking at the artwork. Discuss the word you said and think about why you made that choice.



In the blank space below write your words in a fun way and draw one shape, line, or detail from the artwork.



Go to the next gallery and find the Torah case.

A Torah case holds the Torah scroll, a sacred religious text for Jews. This Torah case was most likely made in Iraq, yet used in a synagogue in India.

The object on view along with others in this gallery are examples of *hiddur mitzvah* and the importance of artists making objects beautiful for holidays and rituals.



Describe the design on the surface of the Torah case to your grown-up. What kinds of shapes and decorative patterns do you see?



In the space below, create your own pattern or design inspired by the surface of the Torah case.



Continue through the galleries until you find the white sculpture made by the artist Arlene Schechet.



Describe what you see. Do you recognize specific objects? What else stands out to you?

The artist created copies of a pair of candlesticks her grandmother brought with her when she immigrated from Belarus to the United States in 1920.



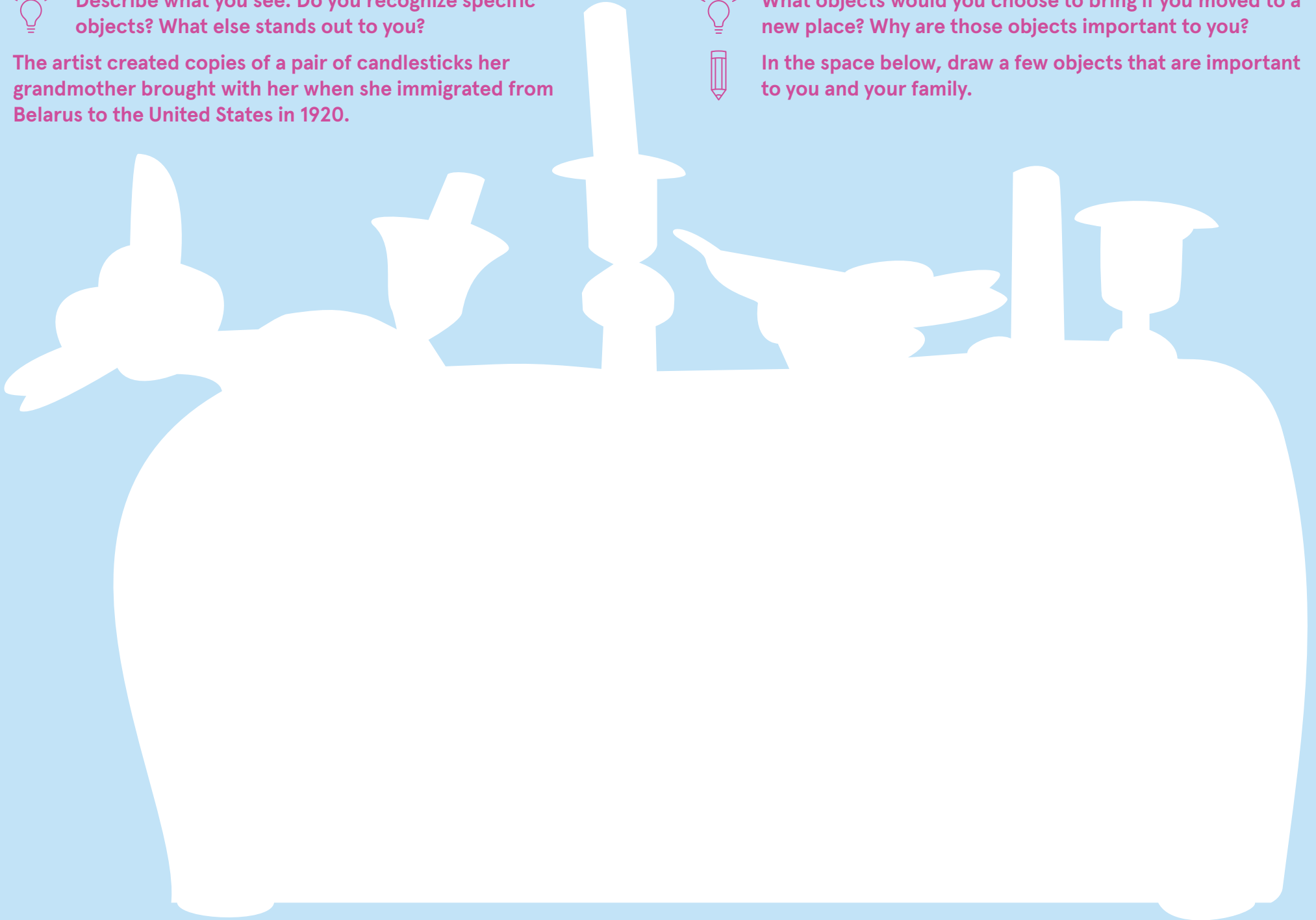
This sculpture is called *Travel Light*. Do you have any new thoughts about this artwork after knowing the title?



What objects would you choose to bring if you moved to a new place? Why are those objects important to you?



In the space below, draw a few objects that are important to you and your family.



Find the black sculpture in this same gallery.



Describe the surface of this sculpture. Is it smooth, rough, or shiny?



Have you seen this material before? Where?

The artist Louise Nevelson created large sculptures out of wood scraps that she found in junkyards and on city streets. She often painted the sculptures all in one color – in this case, she chose black.



Find different types of lines in this sculpture and draw them in the space below.

straight

thick

thin

wavy

curved

Go to the next gallery and find the colorful painting made by the artist Eva Hesse.



What colors do you see?



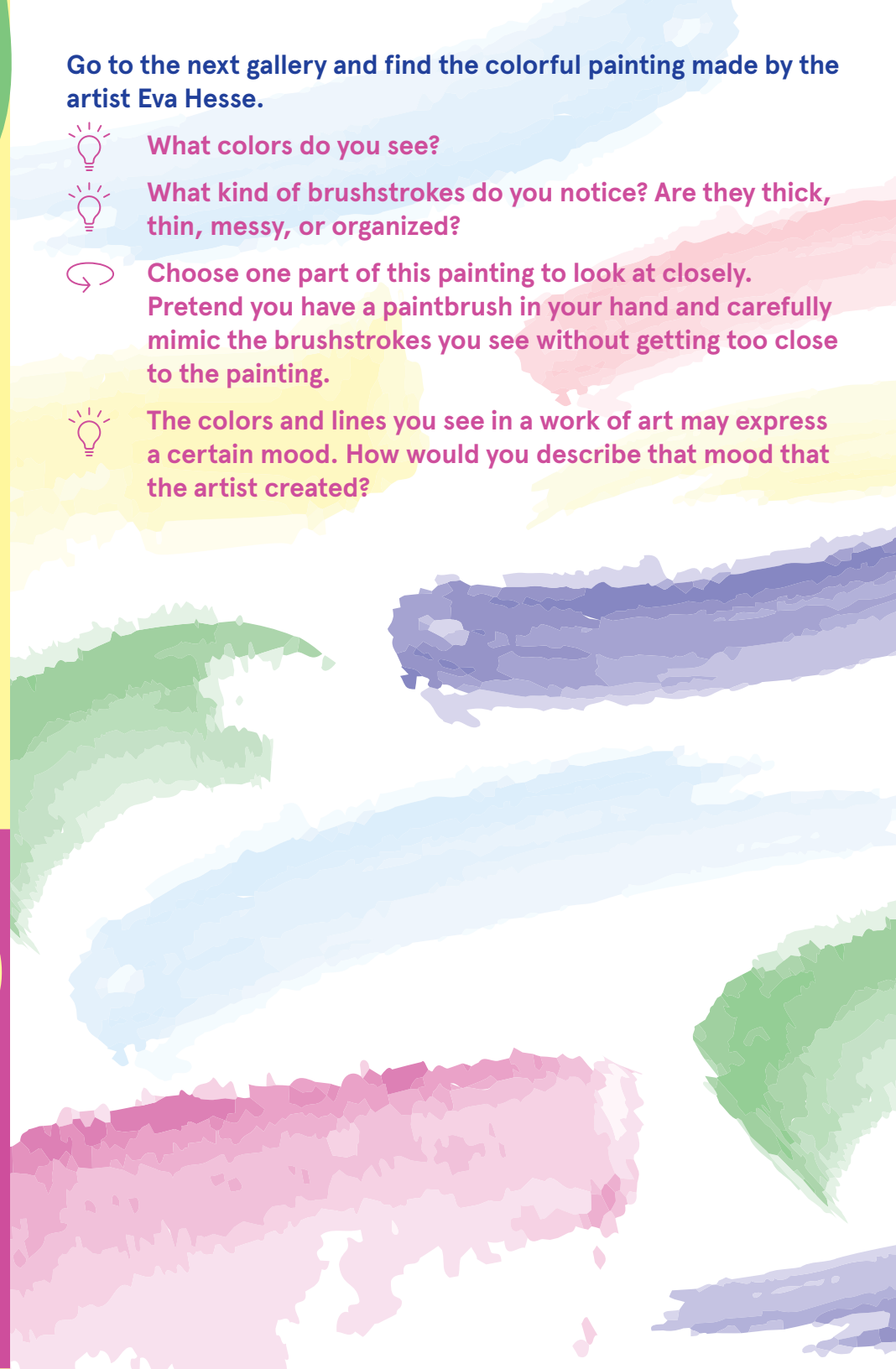
What kind of brushstrokes do you notice? Are they thick, thin, messy, or organized?



Choose one part of this painting to look at closely. Pretend you have a paintbrush in your hand and carefully mimic the brushstrokes you see without getting too close to the painting.



The colors and lines you see in a work of art may express a certain mood. How would you describe that mood that the artist created?



Find the object called *Miriam Cup* in the same gallery.



What is unique about this object?



If you were to shake it gently, what do you think it would sound like?

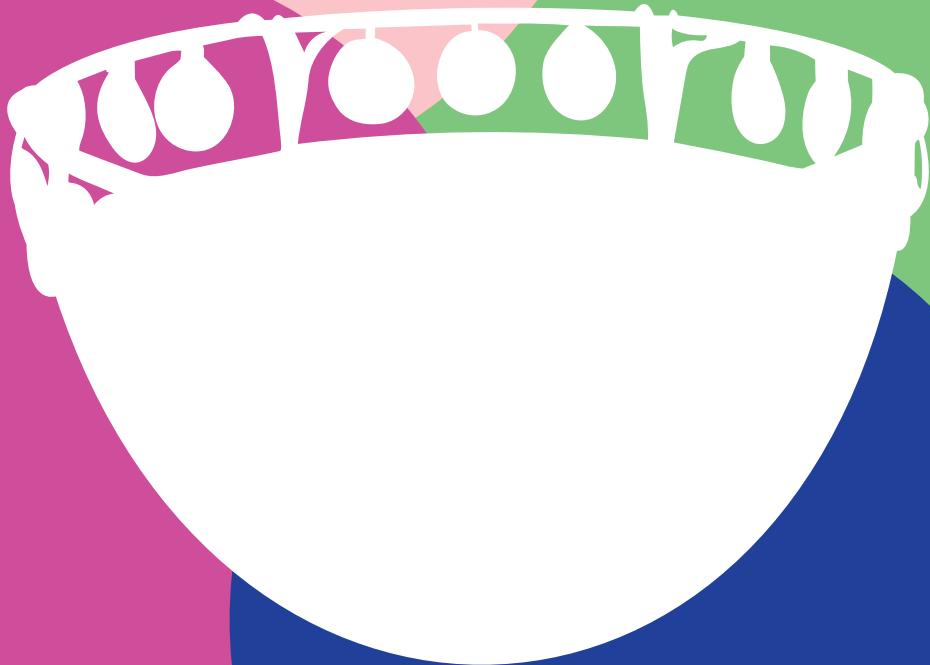
The artist Amy Klein Reichert designed this *Miriam Cup* to use at the Seder, a ritual meal that celebrates the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Passover. This cup was made to hold water in honor of the biblical prophet Miriam, the sister of Moses.

Reichert's *Miriam Cup* makes a musical noise like a tambourine when shaken, referencing the importance of music to Miriam.



Think of an activity that you enjoy. It might be dance, soccer, swimming, reading, or whatever you like.

Add drawings or patterns to the bowl below that relate to the activity you enjoy.



Continue through the galleries until you find the colorful painting by artist Ilana Savdie.



What colors do you see? Notice the various ways Savdie uses paint to create areas that may be bold, translucent, or thick with texture.



Do you recognize anything in this painting? Share what you see with your grown-up.



Choose your favorite detail from the painting and draw the image inside the shape above.

4th Floor

Galleries



Follow the map to the shelves of objects on a light blue wall.
You can touch these!

Artists use different materials to make paintings, sculptures, and other artworks. Explore the textures of clay, metal, stone, and other materials.



How does each object feel? Use the words below to describe the texture to your grown-up.

Rough

Smooth

Bumpy

Cold

Hard

Soft

Follow the map to the large case of Hanukkah lamps.

These Hanukkah lamps or menorahs span many time periods and were made in different places around the world.

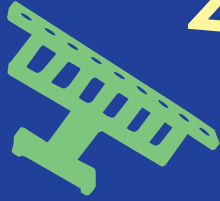


Which lamp stands out to you? What do you notice about it?



Find the following as you look at the different lamps in the case:

1. Lion
2. Bird
3. Snake
4. Chair
5. Building
6. Person
7. Dragon
8. Star of David
9. Crown
10. Statue of Liberty



Follow the map to the colorful portrait of three people by Alex Bradley Cohen.

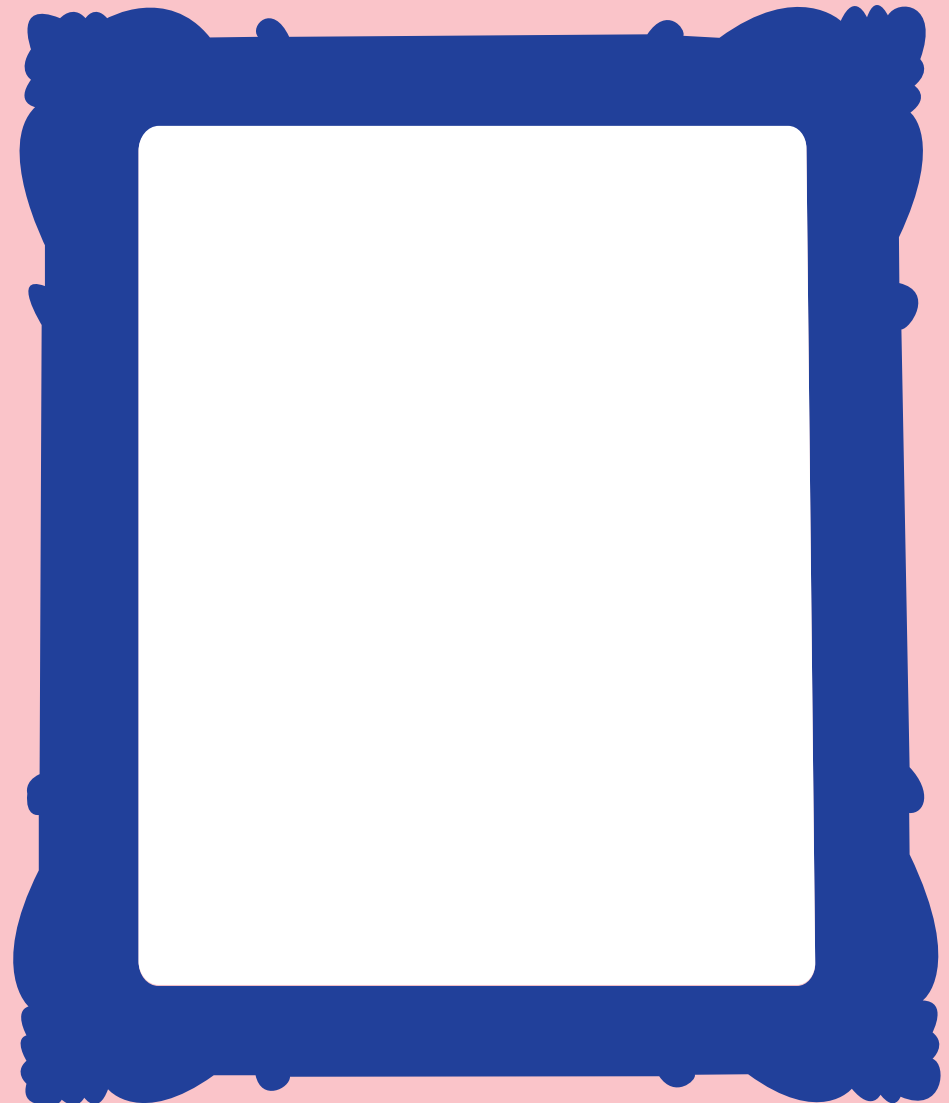


What do you notice in this painting? What are the figures doing?

The artist made paintings of himself and his parents while he was living with them during the pandemic.



Think of something that you like to do with your family. Draw a picture of your family scene in the space below.



Look around at all of the portraits in this gallery.

Choose a painting that catches your eye. You and your grown-up may choose two different paintings or the same one.



Strike a pose similar to a person in the painting of your choice. How are your poses similar or different?



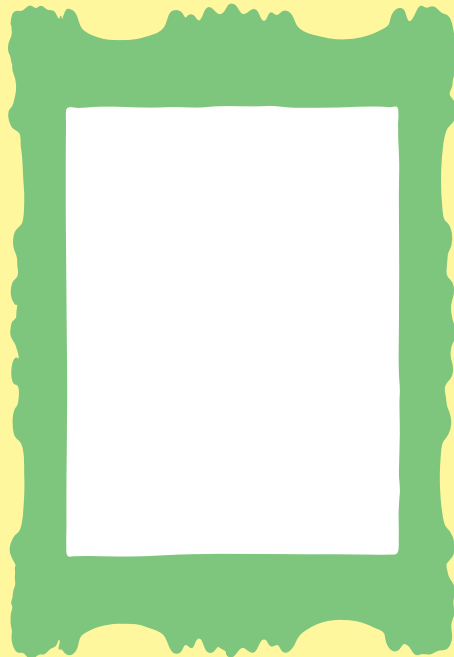
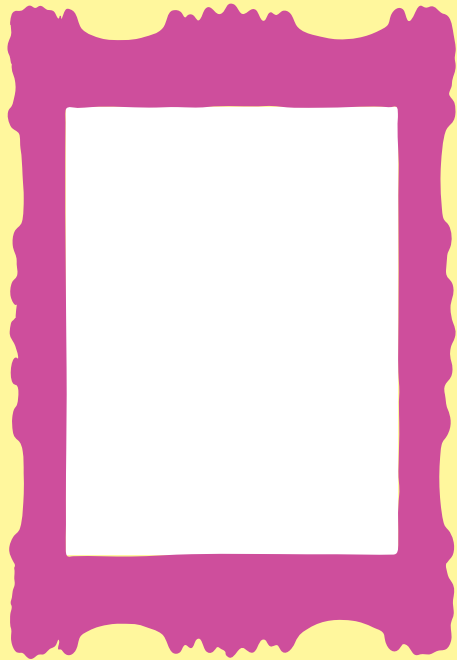
How did that pose make you feel? Circle the word below that describes how it felt.

Proud Inspired Bored Silly Serious Thoughtful

Something else: _____



Take turns drawing each other in a powerful pose within the spaces below.



Follow the map to the gallery of modern objects and ancient artifacts and find the bull figurine in the case.



What facial expression is the bull making? Try to make that same expression.

People who lived in the ancient Eastern Mediterranean sometimes kept handmade animal figurines like this one in their homes.

Find the ostrich egg jar in the same gallery.



How do you think this object was used?

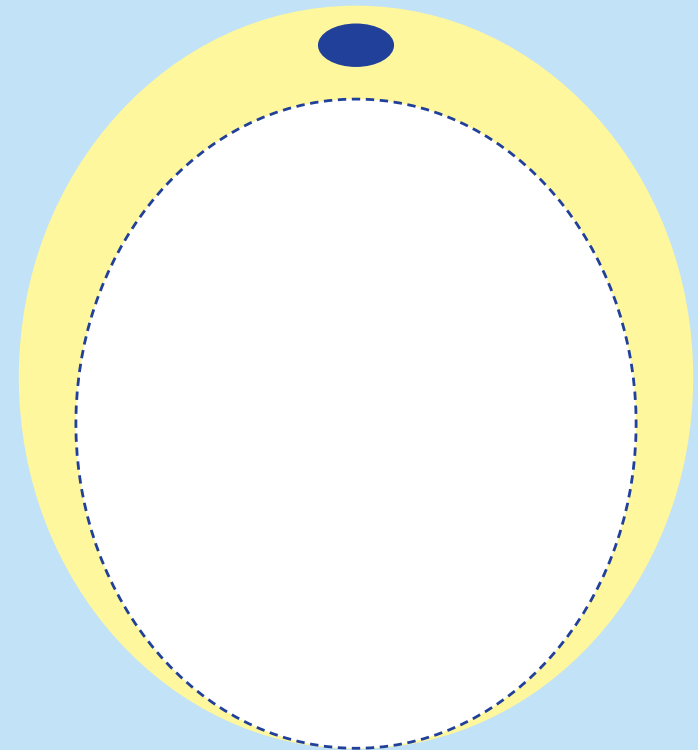
In ancient times, ostrich eggs were special and rare objects sometimes used to make jars, cups, jugs, and other vessels.



What do you think the owners of this jar put inside it?



In the space below, draw something that you would keep inside the ostrich egg.



At Home

Create a mini museum gallery using a shoebox, paper, paint, magazine images, and found objects. Think about works of art you saw today for inspiration and consider a theme for your gallery.

- Gather white or colored paper. Cut the paper to fit the floor and walls of your shoebox and then glue it down.
- Cut a variety of small rectangle sizes out of paper for your gallery artwork. Use the papers as a base and create little collages or paintings that relate to your theme.
- Try placing the artworks in different spots on the walls. Once you have decided on your layout, glue them to the walls of your gallery.
- Collect found objects like buttons, bottle caps, pipe cleaners, cardboard tubes, or other small items.
- Build small sculptures with your found objects, using glue to attach them together.
- Play with different positions for the sculptures, then glue them to the floor of your gallery.
- Invite a family member or friend on a tour of your mini gallery!



Thank you for visiting the exhibition. For information on Family Programs at the Jewish Museum, visit TheJewishMuseum.org/Families.

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Illustrations by Claire Zhang.



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5th Ave at 92nd St, NYC
TheJewishMuseum.org
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Jewish Theological Seminary

