

**Milwaukee Art Museum JDSP**  
**5th Grade – Tour 2: Antiquities to Contemporary**

**Pre-visit Mini Lesson**

We are looking forward to seeing your 5th graders at the Milwaukee Art Museum.

Here are some activities to help prepare the students for the visit.

*(Please note that your students should select a favorite work of art after this tour to research, recreate and respond to for the final Junior Docent Graduation project. Choosing artwork in the galleries must be pre-planned with your Docent Liaison before this tour.)*

**Introduce:**

Today we are going on an “**Antiquities to Contemporary**” tour. We will explore history by looking at art from many places around the world and from many times. How many of you have used a timeline? What is a timeline used for? Our tour today we be like seeing a timeline for art.

**Some vocabulary you might hear today includes: antiquities, ancient, contemporary and modern. If you were to put these words on a timeline, what order would you put them in? How would you define or describe these words?**

- **Ancient** is any historical period before the Middle Ages. The “Middle Ages” began about 476 CE with the collapse of the Roman Empire.
- **Antiquities** are objects or artifacts surviving from ancient civilizations like Mesopotamia, Egypt, ancient China, ancient Greek, Mesoamerica or many others
- **Modern** art began in the 1850s to around the 1970s and usually includes art in which the traditions of the past have been thrown aside in a spirit of experimentation. (These artists were the rule breakers with many new ideas)
- **Contemporary** is the art of today, produced by artists who are living in the twenty-first century. Their art is a dynamic combination of materials, methods, concepts, and subjects that continue to challenge traditional boundaries

**Optional Reminder for Students:** You will be choosing a work of art to research and recreate for your graduation project after the tour today. You may want to watch for a favorite work of art along the way to help you choose.

**Optional Follow-Up Activity:** Ask students to give examples of artwork they saw during the tour for each of the vocabulary words above. Then ask them to think about what time period their favorite works of art come from. Which time period might you want to talk about during your Junior Docent presentation?

*\*To help students select a work of art use the JDSP 100 list or select works of art online. There are printable resources available in the appendix of the Teacher Liaison Resource Packet. Please submit student selections to your Docent Liaison 3-4 weeks before the Study and Sketch Tour.*