

Please (Don't) Touch

Like at many museums, we ask that visitors not touch the artwork at Philadelphia's Magic Gardens (PMG) in order to preserve the space. But this can be especially difficult at PMG since the artwork completely surrounds visitors. Complete the following activity to help students understand the effects touching has on an artwork.

1. Take two pieces of ordinary white paper and pass one of them around the classroom. Ask each student to rub the piece of paper between his or her fingers for a moment before passing it along.
2. After everyone touches the paper display the heavily touched paper. Have students compare it to the untouched piece of paper.
3. Discuss how much dirt and oil is on the sheet that students touched and how these residues can damage works of art. Tell students that hundreds of people visit Philadelphia's Magic Gardens weekly. Have students discuss what the paper might look like if hundreds of people had touched it. Then discuss the importance of preserving art for future generations. Pose the question, "Why is it important to preserve works of art?"
4. Ask students if they can think of other important rules to follow when visiting a museum. Talk about the rules and guidelines of PMG before the visit.

K-W-L Activity (Part 1)

PMG is unlike any other museum in Philadelphia. To prepare students for their upcoming visit, use the Know-Want-Learn chart activity as a springboard for conversation to prepare your group for their visit.

Activity Steps:

1. Prepare the students for the visit by having them create a K-W-L chart. Before their visit they will only complete the K and W sections of the chart.
2. Have the student begin by writing what they "think" that they (K) know about PMG, Isaiah Zagar and mosaics. This will either be confirmed or unconfirmed after the visit.
3. Next have the students create a list of questions for what they (W) want to learn about PMG, Isaiah Zagar and mosaics.
4. Have the students pose what they want to know as questions to bring with them on their visit and have them record their findings for the post-visit activity.*

**The second part of this activity can be found on PMG's Post-Visit Activities sheet.*