

Notes for teachers

In the gallery

Before starting a gallery visit session, make sure students know that the collection at the Laing Art Gallery contains both modern and contemporary art works as well as traditional styles, work by local artists and examples of decorative arts from all over the world. The Laing is home to a collection of art and sculpture and its exhibition programme brings some of the biggest names in historic, modern and contemporary art to the North East.

18th and 19th Century Collection

The 18th and 19th century collections at the Laing include works by nationally and internationally-renowned artists, as well as those of local repute. The Decorative Art collections include outstanding example of ceramics, silver, and glassware, some of which are displayed here alongside the paintings. The works on show change regularly to show the impressive range of art in the collection

Northern Spirit

Northern Spirit is a permanent exhibition celebrating the achievements of artists, manufacturers and makers from the North East of England. This display includes work by 19th century painter John Martin, engraver and naturalist Thomas Bewick and the Beilby family of glass enamellers.

Using this resource

This resource aims to provide an introduction to engaging with and interpreting artworks and artefacts in the gallery. The questions asked here are aimed at KS 3 – 4, but can be easily adapted to suit other groups. The emphasis is on focused looking and thoughtful responses to the artworks.

Students will need a pencil and sketchbook, or paper.

Each section of the resource is designed to promote thinking, looking and debate, in pairs or as a group. There are no right or wrong answers: the answers are related to interpretation of what is being seen, in combination with imaginative responses.

Although students will make their own notes and drawings in their sketchbooks, encourage discussion in pairs or threes. Ensure the group has enough time to look at the artwork. Don't rush this. Bring the group together for speaking and feeding back ideas.

For further information:

Visit our website: [website: www.laingartgallery.org.uk](http://www.laingartgallery.org.uk)

E mail: lainglearning@twmuseums.org.uk

Call the Learning Team on 0191 211 2102 / 04

LAING
ART GALLERY

ArtShaped

A resource for teachers to use with KS3-4

Mood

1 What is the **subject** or content of this work? For example, are there people? Is it a landscape? Is it abstract?

2 What mood or **tone** does this artwork have? Make a list of 6 words which describe the mood of the artwork, like 'warm', 'bleak', 'calm' etc.

3 Focus on your **mood** words again – What elements of the artwork that inspired you to choose those words?

4 Imagine you are the artist or maker – how do you **feel** whilst you are making this work?

5 Work in a pair or small group to write a short **poem** to go with this artwork, using the following technique: For each of your 'mood' words, think of TWO new words, for example, a mood word like 'bleak' could become 'empty void', or 'dawn' could become 'breaking light'. Arrange each pair of words into the order you feel makes most sense. Remember to think about the artwork! Do you think the artist would like your poem? Why?

Materials

1 What kind of **artwork** is this? Is it a painting? a sculpture? Something completely different?

2 Can you list all the **materials** that have been used to make this artwork?

3 Why did the artist **choose** these materials? Are they the best choice?

4 If you could **re-make** this artwork using different materials, such as sculpture, film or movement, What would you choose? Why would your materials work well for this artwork?

5 Now **plan** this alternative artwork explaining how you would make it, what materials you would use and where you would show the work. What do you think the original **artist** would say if they saw your version of their artwork?

Context

1 At what **time** was this artwork made? Does it look ancient? futuristic? contemporary? Is the time the work was made different to the time it belongs in?

2 What is **happening** in this artwork? (Think about events, actions, movements, colours). Can you see any written information about this artwork? Why do you think the artist made this artwork?

3 Imagine this artwork was (in) a scene in a **film**. What might a character see, feel, smell and hear?

4 Can you think of a different **location** in time or space where this artwork could be set? How does the location affect the atmosphere of the artwork?

5 Is there another story from **history**, from the news, your memories or fiction that has similar themes to this artwork? Discuss the similarities and differences as a group.