



# INTERVIEWING THE PAST: JOURNEY BACK IN TIME

What more can we learn about the past by “talking” to the people depicted in works of art?

This activity uses your observation skills and imagination to help you learn more about a work of art and the time period when it was created.

**Are you doing this activity at school or at home?**

Follow these suggestions to make your experience fun and successful.

- Search for images of artworks on the Art Institute of Chicago's website: [www.artic.edu/collection](http://www.artic.edu/collection) or look for other objects around you that could help you complete the activity.
- Work together with classmates, family members, or friends to complete the activity and share what you create.

Imagine that you are a reporter who is able to travel back in time and has the opportunity to interview one of the characters depicted in a work of art.

Working with a partner, select an artwork that was made in a time period or culture that you are studying in class AND that depicts figures or a space where figures might be. Identify a character in the scene or someone you imagine would be in the scene.

What questions would you ask? What would you want to know about the character’s daily life, important events, and culture? How do you expect the character to respond?

Use this space to start recording your ideas.

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

Review the artwork label and consider any adjustments to your answers based on what you learn about the artist and time period.

Once you’ve had a chance to think about the character’s response, write out your imaginary interview using the next page.

Share your interview with classmates while standing in front of the work of art.

