

National Museum of Mexican Art

Location: 1852 W. 19th St. Chicago, IL 60608

Admission Rates and Hours: <http://www.nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org/>

- As of October 2013, admission is free every day that the museum is open, but donations are accepted.
- Keep in mind that exhibitions are subject to change at the discretion of the curators.

Questions for the exterior

1. Examine the exterior of the National Museum of Mexican Art. Describe the decoration on the outside of the building.

Once inside the building, where else do you see designs similar to the exterior decoration?

Questions for the interior

2. Based on what you see in the museum exhibit, what characteristics seem unified within the concept of *Mexicanidad*?

In what ways is this identity diverse?

3. Select a work of art in one of the galleries that represents the idea of “family” to you. Identify the artist name, title, and date:

Describe what you see. Who are the characters? What are they doing? When and where does it seem to be taking place? How do the characters interact? Why do you think they interact the way they do?

4. Locate a work in one of the galleries that represents a combination of European and indigenous (native) artistic and/or religious traditions.

Identify the artist name, title, and date:

What aspects are derived from European traditions?

What aspects are derived from indigenous (native) traditions?

How does the artist represent these traditions as either cooperative or conflicting?

5. Of the works you saw in these galleries today, which was your favorite, and why?

Identify the artist name, title, and date:

What did you like about this work of art? How did it make you feel, and what did it make you think or wonder? Did the artist of this work do anything that you found particularly new or innovative?

6. Of the works you saw in these galleries today, which was most difficult to understand or appreciate, and why?

Identify the artist name, title, and date:

Research that work and the artist when you get home. What did you learn?

7. Did you feel like you got more out of just looking at objects, reading text about them (either on the label next to the object or elsewhere on the walls), watching one of the films or listening to audio segments, or a combination? Why?

How can you adapt your study routine and approach to normal class work to take advantage of what you learned about your learning style and preferences today?

Questions to begin during your field trip and continue working on after you leave (it may help to take photographs—without flash—if photography is allowed in the galleries)

8. Imagine that you are a figure (human, animal, god—be creative!) in one of the works of art located in the gallery. Write a journal entry (at least 7 complete sentences) describing a day in your life.

In it, describe what you think, feel, and also what your senses (sight, sound, taste, smell, touch) convey to you.

After you write your journal entry, underline at least two passages and explain how those passages are supported by the details you observe in the work of art or by what you know about the historical context.

How would another figure in the artwork view your character's life? What similarities and differences would you expect between your character's self-concept and an outsider's judgment of that figure?

9. Select a work of art that engages with a social issue.

Identify the artist name, title, and date:

What social issue is depicted in or served as inspiration for this artwork?

Based on what you see, what do you think the artist thinks and feels about this social issue?

Is the social issue made explicit and obvious, or is it alluded to in a subtle way?

Is this a social issue that you were already familiar with, or is it new to you?

What is a social issue that is important to you?

What is one step you could take this week to engage in a positive way with this issue?