

EXPLORE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM. LEARN INSIDE OUR STATE.

Educational Activity: A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art

As you walk into the museum, pick up a brochure to learn about Mitchell's early life in Trinidad, and how growing up in the west cemented his love of the cowboy and all things Western. Before you begin, name three images or stories that come to your mind when you think of the West (examples could include open space, cowboys, Native Americans, blue sky, camping, sheriffs, gun fights, mountains, etc.).

Walk around the first and second floors of the museum to look at the paintings and Native American artifacts.

Questions to Ask:

1. *What colors did Mitchell use in his paintings?*
2. *How do the colors in the paintings make you feel? Happy, sad?*
3. *What is your understanding of the West after viewing Mitchell's artwork?*
4. *What is your favorite or least favorite work of art in the museum? Why do you like or dislike it?*
5. *If you could purchase one piece of art or artifact to take home, what would you choose? Why? Where would you put it?*

Activity: Put Yourself in the Picture

Choose a work of art to explore that includes a figure. Ask your kid to imagine they are the figure in the story depicted in the work of art.

Ask "What happens to you next?" Kids can describe what happens to the main character by writing about it or drawing an image of what happens next.

Interested in Learning More About Western Art?

Older kids might enjoy watching parts of Colorado Experience Season 5: Western American Art <https://youtu.be/N71t9NdcPo>.