



ART EXPLORERS

ACTIVITIES WITH MOVEMENT

Move Creatively

Try these movement exercises at home!

- Sit with your knees bent and hold the bottoms of your feet together with your hands. Move your knees up and down to flap your legs like butterfly wings. Where will you fly to?
- In the same position, try keeping your legs still and rock from side to side like a sailboat on the water. Where will you sail to?
- Sit with your legs stretched out straight in front of you. Use your feet and toes to wave hello and goodbye.

Drawing Challenge

Draw a picture of yourself dancing.

Week 7 PLAYING WITH RHYTHM AND DANCE

Explore the inspiring and extraordinary works of art, exhibitions, and installations at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston! Whether at home or in the galleries, use this guide to take a trip through the Museum and discover different works of art. If you are using this art guide at home, find works of art in the MFAH Collection at mfah.org/art.

RHYTHM IN THE COLLECTION

Let's start the conversation!

Use these steps to talk about art with your family.

1. Find a work of art in the MFAH Collection. It could be a painting, sculpture, or photograph, as long as it is interesting to you. Take a moment to observe the artwork and notice the details.
2. If this artwork were a piece of music, what kind would it be? Would it be loud and fast? Soft and slow? Would it have a steady beat or would it be chaotic and hard to listen to?
3. By looking at and describing the artwork, try to explain why you feel this way. Try comparing the rhythm of different works of art in the collection.

Did You Know?

- Rhythm is an element used in both music and visual art.
- In music, rhythm is a sequence of sounds and silences that creates an underlying beat.
- In visual art, elements like color, shape, and line are used to create a visual rhythm.

MAKE ART AT HOME

Exploring Rhythm and Making Your Own Instrument

Time: 20 minutes

Difficulty level: Easy



Investigate the Work of Art!

1. The late 1950s and early 1960s marked the end of the colonial rule for much of Africa. Photographer Malick Sidibe captured the vibrancy of this transitional time in his images of the Malian nightclubs. Use the website mfah.org/art to see his work in detail.
2. This life-size sculpture by Coulibaly Siaka Paul was inspired by Malick Sidibe's photograph, which can be seen in the background to the right. Name at least three differences between them.
3. Why do you think Coulibaly Siaka Paul would want to re-create the photograph as a sculpture?

Let's Make Some Art

Gather These Materials

Plastic cup, paper cup, or aluminum can
Thick paper
Tape
Rubber band
Dried beans or uncooked rice
Anything you want to decorate with
Scissors

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Decorate your cup or can, which is the base of your instrument.
2. Place a small handful of rice or beans into the container.
3. Cover the top of the container with paper and secure with tape. A hair band or rubber band also works.
4. Pull a rubber band around the container so it stretches from top to bottom. Now shake, drum, and pluck.
5. **Feel the beat.** Create a rhythm or series of sounds and try to have another person repeat it. Go back and forth repeating each other to explore different rhythms and beats.

Share your finished artwork on social media with #MFAHathome.

Above: Coulibaly Siaka Paul, *Clubs of Bamako*, 1999, polychromed wood, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, museum purchase funded by Nina and Michael Zilkha, 99.232-.233.

Family Programs at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, receive generous support from the Junior League of Houston, Inc.

General admission to the MFAH is free on Thursdays, courtesy of Shell Oil Company.

Learning and Interpretation programs receive generous funding from the Jerold B. Katz Foundation; Institute of Museum and Library Services; H-E-B; MD Anderson Cancer Center; Sharon G. Dies; Sterling-Turner Foundation; Houston Junior Woman's Club; Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo; Samuel H. Kress Foundation; The Brown Foundation, Inc.; Susan Vaughan Foundation; and additional generous donors.