



Walk the Walk! Museum Manners

A visit to an art museum is an exciting experience! Take this quiz to see if you're ready to be a respectful guest.

- 1. Today's the big day! As you're getting ready for school, you...**
 - A. wear your fanciest clothes and shoes because it's a formal occasion.
 - B. wear comfortable clothes and quiet shoes, maybe with a sweater.
 - C. wear an old t-shirt and sloppy jeans because you think they look artistic.
- 2. You want to remember everything about this day, so you...**
 - A. bring a camera to take lots of pictures.
 - B. bring colored markers to make sketches and notes.
 - C. use your eyes and ears to look and listen carefully.
- 3. When you enter the Museum, be sure to...**
 - A. listen for instructions and stay with your group.
 - B. make sure you've got your backpack.
 - C. tell everyone you've been here a million times and don't need a tour guide.
- 4. Looking at art can bring on an appetite! You'll want to...**
 - A. carry a good sack lunch and drink with you on your tour.
 - B. slip a healthy snack into your pocket in case you get hungry.
 - C. eat a good breakfast at home since you can't bring food or drinks into the Museum.
- 5. The tour leader is showing you a very interesting sculpture. You don't...**
 - A. keep your hands in your pockets while taking a good look.
 - B. put your hands behind your back while listening.
 - C. learn about the texture by feeling the sculpture with your hands.
- 6. You walk into a gallery full of terrific paintings. It would be a good idea to...**
 - A. run to the ones you like best so you have plenty of time to see them.
 - B. find one that grabs your attention and take a closer look.
 - C. call across the gallery to your friend to come look at your favorite one.
- 7. The next gallery you enter is very popular—there's a big crowd. The best plan is to...**
 - A. walk carefully to an artwork, pause for a moment to look, and then move on.
 - B. gently nudge people aside so you can be sure to see the art.
 - C. step in front of someone who has been there too long!
- 8. Your museum visit is almost over! You should...**
 - A. whine that you're bored and tired of walking and want to leave NOW.
 - B. think about how to describe the artworks to the people at home
 - C. hide in the galleries so you can stay longer.

How did you do? If you know the answers to these questions, you're ready to be a superstar museum guest. We can't wait to see you!



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Here are the answers to the quiz and some discussion points for you and your students.

- 1. B** There will be a lot of walking and standing during this field trip, so comfortable clothes and shoes are a good idea. It's not necessary to dress up, but looking clean and neat will show respect for the museum staff and the other visitors. Keep in mind that you may be sitting on the floor, and that the temperature in a museum is sometimes a bit cool. Noisy shoes and clothes that rustle can be distracting, so save them for another day.
- 2. C** Cameras that flash can damage the artworks, so be sure you don't use them. And pens can cause damage too, to the art and to the walls and furnishings in the museum. If writing or drawing is a part of your tour, you'll need to use a pencil. But do keep your eyes and ears open throughout your visit!
- 3. A** Your teacher has a plan, so listen up! And if you're being led by a tour leader, he or she will have important instructions as well. Backpacks aren't allowed in the Museum - they can bump into priceless artworks, causing damage. And even if you've been here before, every visit is a new one.
- 4. C** Food and drinks are not allowed in the Museum. If your visit includes lunch or a snack, there will be a special time and place for that. Be sure to eat a good breakfast that day so you'll have lots of energy and brain power.
- 5. C** Even the cleanest hands have skin oils that are harmful to the artworks, so to keep them in good shape for years to come, you must be careful not to touch. There are some exceptions, but unless your tour leader has told you an artwork is OK to touch, remember to keep your hands at your sides, in your pockets, behind your back, or somewhere else safe. And try to stay at least an arm's length from the artworks most of the time.
- 6. B** Even if you're excited about the art, you must remember to walk in the Museum to keep yourself, the other visitors, and the artworks safe. Talking with a friend about what you're seeing is a great idea, but using a loud voice disturbs others who are looking at the art. Keep your voice low and your movements slow, and take a good look at the pieces that really interest you.
- 7. A** Good museum manners include being considerate of others. Nudging people is not a good idea, and be sure to say "excuse me" if you bump into someone accidentally. Just like you wouldn't stand in front of someone watching a ball game, try not to come between a museum guest and a piece of art. You'll want to stand still while you're looking at an artwork, but if the gallery is crowded, pay attention to when you should move on and let others take a look.
- 8. B** You must stay with your group at all times! Getting separated is unsafe for you and might cause your classmates to miss out on something while people are looking for you. Be respectful, stay positive, focus on the great experience you're having, and be ready to share something you've seen or done when you return home. Maybe the people you live with will be so excited by what you tell them they'll bring you back for another visit.