

Join the Guild

Grades 2-12

Pre-visit Resources

Program Objectives

By participating in *Join the Guild*, students will:

- Understand the structure and purpose of the European guild system during the Middle Ages.
- Identify different types of guilds, as well as the materials and techniques used to make their products.
- Explore the Frick's permanent collection of Italian art and discuss these artworks as examples of guild products.
- Participate in a hands-on workshop and create their own guild-inspired works of art.

Vocabulary

During this program, students will learn to use the following vocabulary.

Apprentice: The lowest position within a guild; just beginning training in a skilled trade.

Coat of Arms: A distinctive collection of symbols representing a person, family, or group.

Craft Guild: A type of guild comprised of skilled members who create goods by hand.

Craftsman: A worker in a skilled trade, especially one that involves making things by hand.

Guild: An exclusive association that sets rules and regulations for a specific industry and provides services to members.

Gilding: A craft process of applying gold leaf or gold paint; a type of craft guild.

Illumination: The art of illuminating a manuscript; a type of craft guild.

Journeyman: The mid-level position within a guild; training in a skilled trade.

Manuscript: A book, document, or piece of music written by hand rather than typed or printed, often decorated.

Master: The highest position within a guild; completed training and created a high quality work called a masterpiece.

Merchant Guild: A type of guild involved in trade or the buying and selling of craft goods.

Pigment: A substance used for coloring or painting, especially a dry powder that, when mixed with oil, water, or another medium, constitutes paint or ink.

Tapestry: A piece of thick textile fabric with pictures or designs formed by weaving colored weft threads or by embroidering on canvas, used as a wall hanging or furniture covering.

Online Resources

Prior to your visit, you may want to introduce your students to life in the Middle Ages using the following online resources:

- A look at the Middle Ages through art, including materials and techniques used by common guilds (pages 141-153)
https://www.metmuseum.org/art/metpublications/Medieval_Art_A_Resource_for_Educators
- Free resources for putting together a unit on the Middle Ages
<https://www.coreknowledge.org/free-resource/ckla-unit-2-middle-ages/>
- General introduction into guild history and structure
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/guild-trade-association>