

Medieval Gold

Grades 4-9

Pre-visit Resources

Program Objectives

By participating in *Medieval Gold*, students will:

- Discuss the importance of art as a means of communication during the Middle Ages.
- Identify and decipher symbols commonly used in medieval art using pieces in the Frick's collection of Italian art.
- Gain a basic understanding of life in the Middle Ages.
- Identify symbols that hold specific meaning for them as individuals, and use those symbols to create their own gold foil panel.

Vocabulary

During the program, students will learn to use the following vocabulary as they discover symbols in medieval art.

Diptych: a pair of painted or carved panels hinged together.

Triptych: a painting or carving on three hinged or folding panels.

Symbol: an image representing a meaning other than the one with which it is usually associated.

Medieval: of or belonging to the Middle Ages, the period of history between classical antiquity and the Italian Renaissance (approximately 500 to 1500 A.D.)

Halo: a luminous ring or disk of light surrounding the heads or bodies of sacred figures, such as saints, in religious paintings.

Madonna: an artistic representation of the Virgin Mary, often portrayed with her son, Jesus Christ.

Egg tempera: a painting medium made from pigment mixed with a water-soluble glutinous material, namely egg yolk.

Online Resources

Prior to your visit, you may want to introduce your students to medieval art using the following online resources.

- A look at the Middle Ages through art, including common materials and techniques (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/>