

Outdoors Indoors
Exploring Art and Science at the Queens Museum of Art



Dragonfly Library Lamp, 1900-1910. Tiffany Studios, New York. Design attributed to Clara Driscoll. Leaded glass with brass filigree, bronze. 25" x 16" Photo courtesy of The Neustadt Collection of Tiffany Glass, New York City.

Dear Educators,

Use these activities to explore art and nature through stained glass from the Queens Museum of Art. As you explore further, you may come up with other, creative ways to engage your class and families with the Queens Museum of Art prior to and after *Catch the Cool* family event on Saturday June 18, 2011 at QMA. Please send your questions, creative ideas and photos to us at learning@coolculture.org.

Enjoy!
Cool Culture

Background Info for the Educator

About the Artwork

- Clara Driscoll, the woman who created the designs on this lamp, was inspired to create this after walking through a field and seeing a butterfly land on a flower. Her design brings the beauty of the outdoors indoors!
- This lamp was made in the Louis Comfort Tiffany glass factory in Corona, Queens, NYC in the early 1900s. Tiffany is well-known for his brilliant colors of glass.

About Dragonflies

- Dragonflies are a winged type of insect with two pairs of transparent wings, large eyes, and a long, thin body.
- They live in freshwater habitats such as ponds, lakes, and streams.
- Adult dragonflies eat mosquitos, and help control pest populations.

For more information about dragonflies:

- <http://www.biokids.umich.edu/critters/Anisoptera/>
- <http://www.sandiegozoo.org/animalbytes/t-dragonfly.html>



Looking at Art in the Classroom

Open-ended conversations about works of art encourage children to slow down, look carefully, make observations, and ask questions about what they see. To look at art together in your classroom:

- Use the questions in the “Look Closely, Discuss and Act Out!” to start your discussion.
- Start with small group conversations, each facilitated by an educator or staff-person.
- Make a few color copies so that each child or each small group may have one to look at.
- If this is a new activity for your students, expect that they will have some challenges focusing. However, over time, introducing short conversations about works of art (or photographs, posters, and picture book illustrations) will encourage children to become more attentive and careful observers.

Look Closely, Discuss and Act Out!

Use these prompts in your classroom to encourage discussion:

- This is a picture of a lamp. Does this look like lamps in your house? How is it the same and how is it different?
- What shapes do you see on the lamp? What colors do you see? What designs do you see?
- This winged insect is a dragonfly. Count the number of wings on the dragonfly.
- Buzz around the room like a dragonfly.

Connecting and Extending

Science

- Introduce two words: nature and man-made. Have children brainstorm things they see in nature or outdoors. Hold up different objects like popsicle sticks, twigs, rocks and markers, ask students to sort out which are natural objects. What natural objects can they see in the *Dragonfly Library Lamp*?
- Dragonflies live in ponds. Have you seen a pond? Discuss what else you might find in a pond. What noises would you hear? What animals might you see? Share children's books or pictures of other animals that live in ponds, like frogs, toads, snails, and crayfish, or above the water, ducks.
- Make your own dragonfly! Recycle three cups from an old egg carton to create the body of the dragonfly. Attach pom-poms for eyes and use pipe cleaners to make 4 wings.

Art

Stained Glass

Have children take a black piece of construction paper. Fold it in four. Cut shapes out along the edges (like a snowflake). Open it up. Apply glue around the holes and put a square of colored tissue paper on top of it. It might be helpful to precut the tissue paper into small squares. Turn it over and admire your stained glass! Hang on windows to allow light to go through it.



Students at Stagg Street Center for Children used colored tissue paper and construction paper to make "stained glass."

Nature Collage

Take a walk outside. Find things from nature to inspire your own artwork. Collect leaves, flowers, and other objects and make a collage from the gathered objects.



Collages by students at University Settlement, inspired by the *Dragonfly Library Lamp*.

Color Mixing

Layer and arrange pre-cut shapes of colored acetate or cellophane on white paper. How do the colors change when the pieces are overlapped?

Lamp-inspired Collages

After discussing the Tiffany lamp, have each child make their own version. Using glue, layer pieces of colored construction paper to make a collage inspired by the piece.

Color Hunt!

Give each child a paint swatches from the hardware store or a scrap of colored construction paper. Have children look and find their color in the photo of the *Dragonfly Library Lamp* or in objects around the classroom.

Book Corner

Encourage families to read books that discuss pond life and the habits of other insects.

- ***Are you a Dragonfly?* by Judy Allen and Tudor Humphries.**

This illustrated book details the life and metamorphosis of a dragonfly. (Recommended for ages 4-8)

- ***The Very Lonely Firefly* by Eric Carle.**

Collage-like art documents a firefly's quest to find others like him. The colorful illustrations are as vivid as stained glass. (Recommended for ages 4-8)

- ***In the Small, Small Pond* by Denise Fleming.**

Using paper technique and rhyming text, Fleming illustrates the flora and fauna of pond life. (Recommended for ages 2-6)

- ***Over in the Meadow* by Ezra Jack Keats.**

Keats' collage illustrations accompany a traditional Appalachian counting rhyme about creatures that live in the meadow. (Recommended for baby-preschool)



Introducing Vocabulary

- Stained glass
- Dragonfly
- Insect
- Nature
- Man-made

Exploring Related Artworks---In-person!

Encourage families to use their Cool Culture Family Pass to visit the following partnering museums that display stained glass.

See the *Dragonfly Library Lamp* and other stained glass in-person!

QUEENS MUSEUM OF ART
NYC Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park
(718) 592-9700 www.queensmuseum.org



Download free Cool Culture Hunt Cards for the Queens Museum of Art:
<http://www.coolculture.org/activities/culture-hunt>

Share with families that in addition to the Queens Museum of Art, there are other Cool Culture partners in which you can view stained glass:

Brooklyn Museum  **BROOKLYN MUSEUM**
200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn
(718) 638-5000 www.brooklynmuseum.org

Visit the second-largest art museum in NYC. The Brooklyn Museum's permanent collection includes more than 1.5 million objects, from ancient Egyptian mummies to work by living artists.



The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE DIVINE
1047 Amsterdam Avenue, Manhattan
(212) 316-7490 www.stjohndivine.org

The Cathedral's large stone building is a marvel to behold, including its many colorful stained glass windows.



MUSEUM AT ELDRIDGE STREET
12 Eldridge Street, Manhattan
(212) 219-0302 www.eldridgestreet.org

Explore one of New York City's most spectacular National Historic Landmarks, nestled in a unique part of the city where Chinatown meets the old Jewish Lower East Side.