

New View, New York
Exploring Cityscapes at the Queens Museum of Art



The Panorama of the City of New York, 1964, 1992, 2007. Lester Associates, West Nyack, NY. Foam, Formica, wood, plastic, brass. 9,225 square feet. Photo courtesy of the Queens Museum of Art.

Dear Educators,

You may use these activities and questions as a jumping off point for your class or families to engage with exploring the city, the Queens Museum of Art, and their premiere collection, including *The Panorama of the City of New York* (pictured). As you explore, you may come up with other, creative ways to engage your class. Please send your questions, ideas and photos to us at learning@coolculture.org , so that we may share them with other educators and families.

Enjoy!
Cool Culture

Background Info for the Educator

- *The Panorama of the City of New York* is located at the Queens Museum of Art and contains 895,000 building structures from all five boroughs.
- The *Panorama* occupies an entire room; visitors can make their way around the model by following the glass walkway that lines the perimeter.
- Robert Moses commissioned the *Panorama* for the 1964 World's Fair held in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Queens. It took 100 people three years to build the model! The model was updated in the early 1990s, and it includes every building built before 1992.

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!” section 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. It's helpful to have children put their fingers on the part of the image they are discussing.
- 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:

Look at this model, a small version of New York City!

- Name the colors you see. The green areas are city parks. What do you think the blue is?
- What makes up a city? Can you find:
 - Bridges?
 - Boats?
 - Skyscrapers?
 - Roads?
 - Cars?
- Act it out! Use your body to create the shapes of the buildings and bridges that you see. Can you make a tall skyscraper? Can you work with a partner to act out a bridge?
- Make your own city soundtrack! Brainstorm the kinds of noises you'd hear in the city. Now make all the noises at once! Have a signal for when to stop.

Connecting and Extending

Exploring the City around Us

- Walk around the neighborhood. Talk with children about the different buildings that you see. Are they short or tall? How many floors or levels can you count? What are the different buildings you see? Can you find a restaurant, a post office, or a school?
- During a field trip, have the class or teacher take photos for a class book about the neighborhood. Later, encourage the children to look at the book and construct their own version of the neighborhood using boxes, blocks, toy cars and handmade signs.
- See the city from an unusual viewpoint---From the water or from up high! Go on a field trip or have families take children to these unique forms of New York City transportation:
 - Roosevelt Island Tram
 - Staten Island Ferry
 - Governors Island Ferry

Art & Play

City Collage

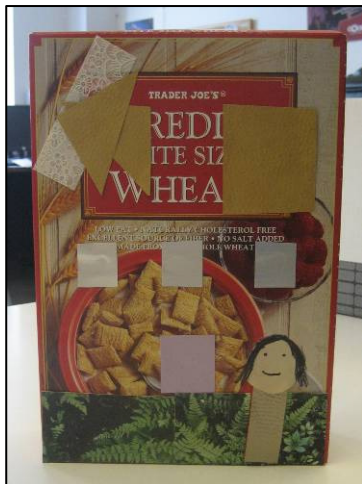
Using paper, markers, crayons, pre-cut shapes of foam or colored paper, and glue, make your own city collage! Ask children to consider the shapes they see in the city (e.g. rectangles for buildings, perhaps triangles for roofs). Don't forget to add roads, cars and trains!

Be an architect!

Experiment with building bridges and skyscrapers out of clay, play dough or blocks.



A family from the Stagg Street Center for Children shows off their city collage.



An example of a cereal box building.

Make your own "Panorama!"

Use empty cereal boxes, juice boxes, oatmeal containers, and other materials to make your own model buildings like those in the *Panorama*. Have children paste squares of scrap paper on the boxes to add windows and other features to the "buildings." Have children describe their structures and photograph them with their buildings to make a photo book of their *Panorama*. You may use the completed buildings in the block area.

Book Corner

Encourage families to read books that discuss New York City and architecture.



- ***The Gingerbread Boy* by Richard Egielski.**

A gingerbread boy hoping to outrun some hungry New Yorkers meets his match in Central Park. (Recommended for ages 4-8)

- ***My New York* by Kathy Jakobsen**

Becky writes to her friend relocating to New York about her favorite New York sites, which include the Central Park Zoo, the Statue of Liberty, and the American Museum of Natural History. (Recommended for ages 4-8)

- ***Next Stop Grand Central* by Maira Kalman.**

Kalman's vibrant illustrations pay homage to the people and passengers of Grand Central Station. (Recommended for ages 4-8)

- ***Tar Beach* by Faith Ringold.**

"Quilt paintings" illustrate Cassie's imaginative flight over New York City during the Great Depression. (Recommended for ages 4-8)

- ***The Inside-Outside Book of New York* by Roxie Munro**

This picture book shows twelve New York City landmarks from dual perspectives: from the visitor looking in and from the landmark looking out. (Recommended for ages 6-10)

- ***Architecture Counts* by Michael J. Crosbie and Steve Rosenthal.**

Using photo illustrations, Crosbie and Rosenthal teach counting and shapes through architecture details. (Recommended for ages 4-8)

Introducing Vocabulary

- Skyscraper
- Bridge
- Panorama
- Model
- Neighborhood

Exploring Related Artworks---In-person!

Encourage families to use their Cool Culture Family Pass to visit the following artworks at partnering museums:

See *The Panorama of the City of New York* 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 explore New York City:



MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

1220 Fifth Ave. at 103rd St., Manhattan
(212) 534-1672 www.mcnyc.org

Collections on the history of New York City and its people that include paintings, maps, toys, costumes and many other objects

NEW YORK TRANSIT MUSEUM



Corner of Boerum Place & Schermerhorn Street, Manhattan
(718) 694-1600 www.mta.info/museum

This Museum is located in a former subway station; visitors get a highlighted glimpse of New York City's public transportation system. Fun interactive exhibits invite visitors to sit on old-fashioned trains, trolleys, and buses.