



## MUSEUM FROM HOME

Edition 1: Snack Time | March 23, 2020



George E. Forster, *Still Life with Fruit*, 1866, oil on canvas, 25 x 30 in. Clara S. Peck Fund. 2018.11

## SNACK TIME!

**Look!** 👁️👁️

If this painting makes you feel hungry, it's no surprise! Let's take a closer look.

**Can you name the different types of fruits that are in this painting?  
Circle the fruits you see: (Hint: there are 10 different fruits)**

strawberry   banana   peach   grapefruit   cherries   pears   apples  
pineapple   plums   grapes   currants   mango   orange

**Think:** Do the fruits in this painting all ripen at the same time? Hmm...

**Learn!**

If you were living in the Northeastern United States (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey) in the 1880's, it would not have been possible to have all these fruits together at one time. In reality, these fruits would have ripened at very different times of the year: from the strawberries of early spring through summer's peaches and late fall's apples. Over 100 years ago, only very wealthy people could afford to have tropical fruits like oranges and pineapples imported from great distances.

This type of painting is called a still life. Forster liked to paint table top *compositions* (arrangements) like this one. In this painting he wanted to show the bounty of the land and his skill for perspective and hyperrealistic details. The orange and pineapple were certainly intended to demonstrate both the wealth and abundance of the owner of the painting as well as the artist.

To see more examples of famous still life paintings visit the Smithsonian Learning Lab.  
[https://learninglab.si.edu/search?st=still+life&item\\_type=smithsonian&st\\_op=and](https://learninglab.si.edu/search?st=still+life&item_type=smithsonian&st_op=and)

## **Do!**

### **Create Your Own Still Life:**

Supplies you'll need: pencil; colored pencils, crayons, markers or paints; paper; a viewfinder\*

\*You can make your own view finder with a recycled toilet paper or paper towel tube, or a paper with a frame cut out - see how to make one here:

<https://www.allaboutdrawings.com/how-to-make-a-viewfinder.html>

1. Select a few objects to draw.
2. Place them on a table. You can add a cloth or just leave them on any surface.
3. Use your viewfinder (an artist's tool). This will block out all distraction and allow you to assess the composition and consider its placement on the paper.
4. Look through the viewfinder to study and frame your still life.
5. Use a pencil to sketch out your design.
6. Color in your still life using colored pencils, crayons, markers or paints.
7. Voilá! You have your very own still life.

**Complete the word search on the next page. Find the words from the list that relate to the painting.**

**Still Life with Fruit  
Word Search**

F P W O D I S H B P Z E K O G I O G  
H A J V Q I F L N T K Z P E A R S U  
S Y A D I N O N Y S U S D C Z L S H  
G X O C U R R A N T S D X H I D H Z  
Y F A B R I C L P C A D L E R Q B N  
F B X H K T G Z F U T B P R A R A V  
T A B L E T O P P Y T S L R P G S I  
S T R A W B E R R I E S U I P H K Y  
N Y Z N V K N M A H T U M E L L E C  
O B I C R K W V E E F X S S E Y T V  
N P W E W E R C A U H A I S S F X N  
M Z N G R A P E S O L E A V E S G P

Find the following words in the puzzle.  
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

STRAWBERRIES  
DINONYBUS  
CHERRIES  
CURRANTS  
TABLETOP

APPLES  
GRAPES  
LEAVES  
FABRIC  
BASKET

PEARS  
PLUMS  
EWER  
DISH

Answer Key:

The fruits in this painting are:

grapes, cherries, strawberries, plums, orange, currants, apples, peaches, pineapple, pears

SOLUTION

*Still Life with Fruit*

Word Search

