

Art in the Middle Ages tended to show religious subjects. Saints and Biblical stories were most frequently depicted. With the Renaissance and the rediscovery of Greek and Roman art and culture, artists began to paint scenes from ordinary life. Portraits also became more popular and artists began to focus on making their art reflect the life they saw around them.

New techniques also helped. Painters now used perspective and the interplay of shadows, light and reflections to further enhance their art.

As we walk around the museum look for the following:

People playing a game	A painting of food	A painting of the inside of a church showing perspective	A painting of a kitchen
People washing their clothes	A painting of children	A painting of a battle	A portrait of a gentleman
A painting of a city	A painting of a boy and his dog	People skating	A painting of flowers and fruit (still life)

How do the artists show who is important in the paintings?

How do they show whether things are far away or near?

Can you tell where the light is coming from in each painting?

On the back of this sheet see if you can draw something from one of the paintings you found. Notice how the artist used shadows to make some parts of the drawing more distinct than others.