

Museums Worcestershire Make-athon Challenges

Japanese Art: Creative writing

Create your own Japanese story!

In Museums Worcestershire's art collection we have a number of beautiful Japanese prints. It's a bit of a mystery how they came into the collection, but they were probably acquired to show the people of Worcester this exciting new art style from Japan! The prints are very fragile, printed on mulberry bark paper, and some of the inks are faded due to age. For their protection they need to be treated like watercolour paintings and not displayed in full sunlight!

Discover: 5 facts about Japanese art

1. Japanese Woodblock prints were known as UKIYO-E or Pictures of the Floating World. They were made in large quantities for ordinary people of Japan to buy.
2. The average cost of a print was the price of 2 portions of noodles from the street food stall!
3. They were produced in workshops by very talented craftsmen. A team of 3 artisans worked on each print: the artist, the wood-block cutter and the printer.
4. The prints included images of landscapes, city views, famous stories, and sumo wrestlers. The most popular were those of beautiful women in the latest kimono fashion & hair styles!
5. The prints were introduced to western world in the 1850s and became very popular. They were collected as fine art - we know that Van Gogh loved them.

Explore:

Find out about life in Japan 150 years ago... discover about the Samurai class, the cities of Japan like Edo (now Tokyo), ancient Japanese legends, music, and sumo wrestling!

Create:

Stories, poems or drawings inspired by the following pieces of art from our collection.



Asamizu is a silk-weaver, but in her spare time she likes to write poetry. She dreams of getting published and becoming a famous poet, but she is only a factory-girl and people like her are not supposed to become writers. Tell Asamizu's story or write some of her poetry.



This girl is reading a letter about a town by the sea that she used to visit. What does the letter say? What does she remember about the town? How does she answer the letter?



It is not easy carrying a boiling hot cup of tea down a wooden ladder when you're wearing a long dress! Why is she doing this? What happens next?

To find more exciting make-athon ideas visit
www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk/collections/activities/