

Looking: Ten Times Two

Educator's Guide

A routine for making careful observations about images, visual art, or objects. This routine helps students slow down and make detailed observations by encouraging them to push beyond first impressions and obvious features.

Step 1: Look at the artwork (or image, object, etc.) for at least 30 seconds. Let your eyes wander.

Step 2: List 10 words or phrases about any aspect of the artwork (or image, object, etc.).

Step 3: Repeat steps 1 & 2: Look at the artwork again for at least 30 seconds. Try to add 10 more words or phrases to your list.

Variations:

- Encourage recording 3-5 observations if 10 is too many.
- Students can draw what they notice instead of writing.

The Activity

This routine can be used with any kind of visual art. You can also use non-art images or objects. This can be a whole class, small group, or independent writing activity using a graphic organizer (included in this lesson).

When trying for the first time, you can encourage students to simply make a broad inventory of what they see. You might want to try some guided looking by asking students to notice colors, shapes, lines and texture. You can also remind them they will not be searching for meaning in this routine.

You can have pairs of students share their lists after both looking sessions to notice what their partners saw.

When to use Looking: Ten Times Two

- When you want students to slow down and make careful, detailed observations of a visual artwork or any relevant non-art images or objects.
- Before using the [See, Think, Wonder](#) routine to deepen the “See” step of that routine.
- Before a writing activity to help students develop descriptive language.
- Before a visit to a museum or historical site to practice making careful observations.
- During a visit to a museum or historical site.

Additional Resource

Watch [this video](#) from Smithsonian Education to see this thinking routine in practice.

The [Looking: Ten Times Two](#) thinking routine was developed by Project Zero, a research center at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Practice Looking: Ten Times Two

Try the Looking: Ten Times Two routine with your class using this painting from Shelburne Museum's collection.



Abbot Fuller Graves, *A New England Country Grocery*, 1897
More information about this painting can be found [here](#).

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