

Image Analysis Guiding Questions

OBSERVE: Identify and note details

- What type of image is this (photo, painting, illustration, poster, etc.)?
- What do you notice first? Describe what else you see.
- What's happening in the image?
- What people and objects are shown? How are they arranged? How do they relate to each other?
- What is the physical setting? Is place important?
- What, if any, words do you see?
- Are there details that suggest the time period this image relates to? Is the creation date listed in the bibliographic record? If the creation date is listed, was this image created at or around the same time period the image relates to?
- What other details can you see?

REFLECT: Generate and test hypotheses

- What tools might have been used to create this image?
- Why do you think this image was made? What might have been the creator's purpose? What evidence supports your theory?
- Why do you think the creator chose to include these particular details? What might have been left out of the frame?
- Who do you think was the audience for this image?
- What do you think the creator might have wanted the audience to think or feel? Does the arrangement or presentation (lighting, angle, etc.) of the details affect how the audience might think or feel? How?
- What do you feel when looking at this image?
- Does this image show clear bias? If so, towards what or whom? What evidence supports your conclusion?
- What was happening during the time period this image represents? If someone made this image today, what would be different/the same?
- What did you learn from examining this image? Does any new information you learned contradict or support your prior knowledge about the topic or theme of this image?

QUESTION: What didn't you learn that you would like to know about? What questions does this image raise? What do you wonder about . . .

- Who?
- What?
- When?
- Where?
- Why?
- How?

What sources might you consult to learn more?