

In this gallery you can see paintings of both the city and the countryside. American artists were inspired by farm buildings. Like many of the paintings in this exhibition, the artists didn't include many people. **As you look around this gallery, think of the kind of people who might live in these places.**

7 Down on the Farm

Find this painting.

The farm seems very empty.

Can you draw some farm workers and more animals?



8 What's the Story?



Find these three paintings in the gallery.

Choose one of the paintings to be the beginning of a story. Chat with your family – what has just happened? And what's going to happen next?

You can write down some ideas here if you like:

You've finished the trail. Well done! Which painting did you think is the coolest in the whole exhibition? Write the title and artist below:



SUITABLE FOR AGES
6+

AMERICA'S COOL MODERNISM

Welcome to this exhibition. You'll be exploring some paintings by American artists, often described as 'cool'.

What does cool mean to you? Tick any boxes that fit your description of cool...

COLD FASHIONABLE BRILLIANT UNFRIENDLY CALM

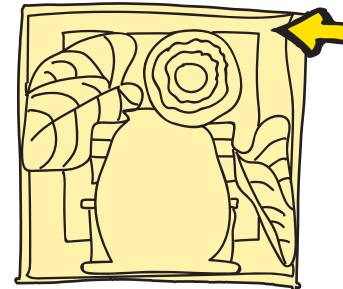
Other _____

Throughout this exhibition, you'll find lots of paintings of American places and buildings in the city and countryside, often without people. **As you do this trail, look out for the painting that you think is the coolest. You can write down the title and artist at the end of the trail.**

Start in the first gallery

This exhibition also explores how American artists experimented with abstract painting. This is when artists use simple shapes and colours rather than trying to make paintings look realistic. **As you look around, think about whether you like abstract art.**

1 Abstract Sunflowers



Steichen was an artist who liked to paint sunflowers. One of his sunflower pictures looked a bit like this. **Can you find a more abstract sunflower painting by Steichen in this gallery?**

What has he changed?

2 Painting Sound



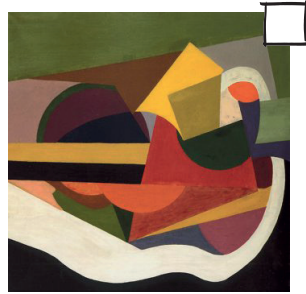
Find this painting called 'Sound'.



EE Cummings was an artist who tried to paint things he couldn't see – like sound.

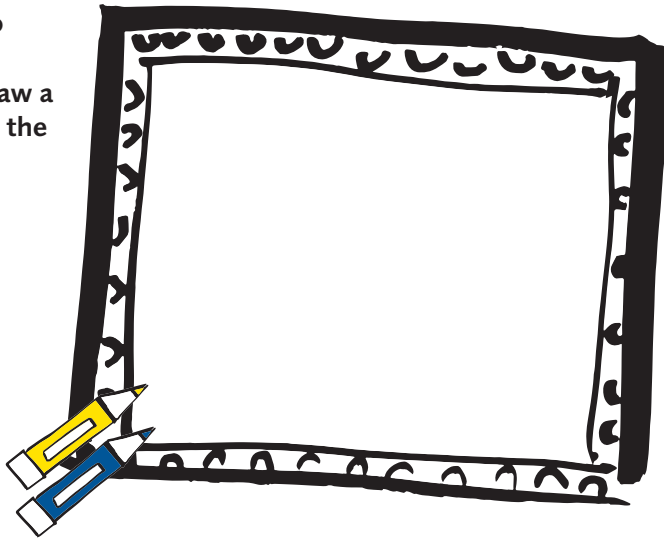
What sort of sound do you think this is?

There's no right answer. It could be anything!



Now it's your turn to try. Choose **ONE** of these sounds and draw a picture representing the sound they make.

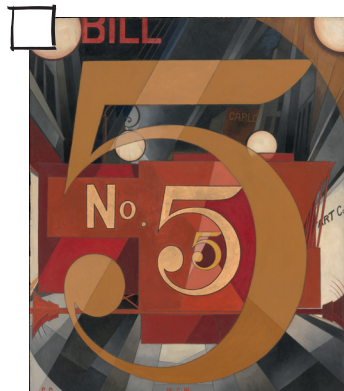
- DOG'S BARK
- WATERFALL
- LAUGHTER



3 Poem Portraits

Find this painting of a fire engine with a number 5.

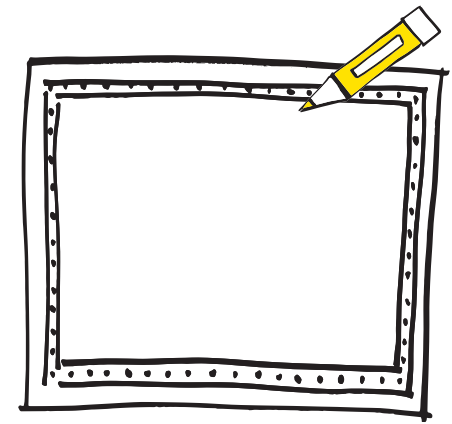
The artist Demuth, painted this abstract portrait of his friend William Carlos Williams. Williams had written a poem about a red fire engine zooming through the streets of New York so instead of painting Williams's face, the artist painted the poem.



Draw a portrait of someone you know, based on a few of the things they love best.



Here is a portrait of someone who loves cheese, music and fireworks.



Go through to the next gallery



This gallery is full of skyscrapers, bridges and factories in American cities. Cities are full of people, but these artists rarely included them. There are a few people in the paintings. As you look around the gallery, can you spot any?

4 City Paintings



The artist O'Keeffe painted this from high up on the 30th floor of her apartment.

Do you think it makes the city look like a happy or a sad place to be?

Look around at the other city paintings in this room.

Find one you'd like to step in to, and one you wouldn't. Chat with your family about your thoughts.



5 Up High, Down Low

Find this picture of a skyscraper.



The artist makes it look as if we are really close to the bottom of the skyscraper, looking up. Try crouching down at someone's feet and look up at them. How does it make them look?

TALLER

SHORTER

Can you find any other pictures where the artist's viewpoint is the bottom of a building, looking up?



Move on to the next gallery

