



VICTORIAN ENGLAND: THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

Furry Friends and Fearsome Beasts: Animal Painters

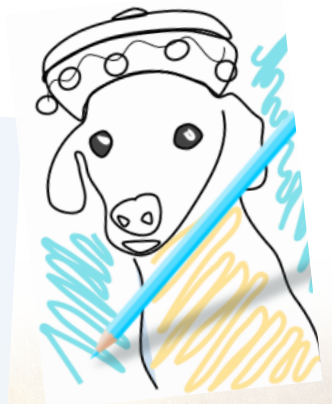


WHAT WE LEARNED:

- We learned that the Victorians loved animals! Every kind of animal both wild and domestic were considered subjects for “high art.”
- We learned about the paintings and techniques of three of the era’s most notable animal painters: Edwin Landseer, Charles Burton Barber, and Briton Riviere.
- Through our exploration of these artists, we also learned more about the creatures (great and small) that they memorialized through their art.

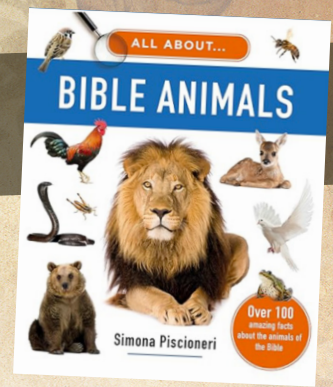
ART ACTIVITY: Animal Printmaking

Today’s lesson was full of fun and furry artwork! Your child learned about the genre of animal painting that was made popular during the Victorian period. They saw many paintings of Queen Victoria’s beloved dogs as well as works that depicted animals in Biblical scenes. Artists from this era had a gift for using animals to make an emotional impact on the viewer. We feel sad when the dogs look sad, and we feel fearful when inspecting the snarling muzzles of the hungry lions. After our lesson, the students learned a monotype printmaking technique to create one-of-a-kind animal portraits. Using transparency film, markers, and colored pencils, they were able to draw and color an animal of their choice. Was your child’s cute, cuddly, powerful, or terrifying?



BOOK Nook

Bible Animals
By Simona Piscioneri



FUN FACTS: Edwin Landseer

1. It was not just Landseer's skill that impressed the young Victoria. Landseer was also a terrific storyteller and would often regale her with stories while painting her pets.
2. Landseer was also said to be ambidextrous—able to paint with both hands! There was a popular rumor floating about that “Sir Edwin could work on a horse's tail with one hand while completing the animal's head with the other!”
3. There is a dog named after Edwin Landseer: the black and white Newfoundland is now officially recognized in Europe as the Landseer.
4. Landseer was not only a favorite of Queen Victoria but also a friend of Charles Dickens.
5. Landseer carved London's famous lions guarding the base of Nelson's column in Trafalgar Square.

A CLOSER LOOK: Charles Burton Barber

In today's lesson we explored how Charles Burton Barber used poses and expressions to show emotion in the animals he painted. This work titled *Suspense* provides a good example! Take some time to closely examine the scene. As you do, think about these questions:

- Why do you think Barber titled this picture *Suspense*?
- What is the little girl doing? How about the dog and kitten?
- Based on what you've observed, what do you think will happen?



Click [HERE](#) to view more paintings by Charles Burton Barber. Choose a favorite and create your own title for the work. Be sure that your title gives others a hint about what you think is happening in the picture.

FOR Parents

During the Victorian era every kind of animal—wild and domestic—was painted. Such paintings were not relegated to sentimental renderings of children and pets. Many like Edwin Landseer's *Monarch of the Glen* and Briton Riviere's *The King Drinks* were stunningly beautiful. All were engagingly masterful in capturing the multifaceted motion and “emotion” of the animal kingdom and how that kingdom intersects man's world.

CONNECTIONS AT HOME: Creating an Animal Portrait!

All of the artists in our lesson painted amazing portraits of pets. But did you ever wonder how they got them to be still? Remember *Marco on the Queen's Breakfast Table*?

These artists most likely had to do sketch after sketch before picking up their paint brush. However, with today's cameras and iPhones we can just press or tap a button—sort of. Pressing or clicking works fine for taking pictures of friends and family, but not so much when trying to get a great shot of our pets! In that case we need a little professional help and *National Geographic Kids* has some great tips! Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

Then grab your camera and photograph a “portrait” of your pet. Be sure to give your portrait a title!



ADDITIONAL Resources

- Watch [Animals on the Move](#) by Next Generation Science
- View National Geographic for Kids: [African Lion: Amazing Animals](#)
- Watch [Animal Structures for Movement](#) by Next Generation Science
- Discover more at [Kiddle: Edwin Landseer](#)
- Enjoy learning more about [National Geographic's Amazing Animals](#)
- Watch [National Geographic's 8 Minutes of Baby Animals: Pure Joy and Cuteness](#)

Due to the changing nature of web resources, M&G strongly urges you as the parent to preview these sites before your child accesses them. The fact that these sites are available on this handout does not imply that M&G endorses their content from the standpoint of morals, philosophy, theology, or scientific hypotheses.

M&G Educational Mission:

Through tours, events, and publications, the Museum & Gallery seeks to partner with educators in fulfilling all of the National Visual Arts Content Standards. By integrating art into the core curriculum, M&G's goals are to teach children to value the arts, to communicate through the arts, to become creative problem solvers through the inclusion of STEAM-related concepts and fully-developed STEAM units, to understand history and culture in light of the arts, to improve literary interest and understanding through visual storytelling, to critique the arts, and to develop an aesthetic awareness of the arts. Through fulfilling the mission, M&G is able to help develop citizens who have the ability to think, feel, and understand the world in which they live.

