

FAMILIES

ART CONNECTIONS > Recommended for all ages

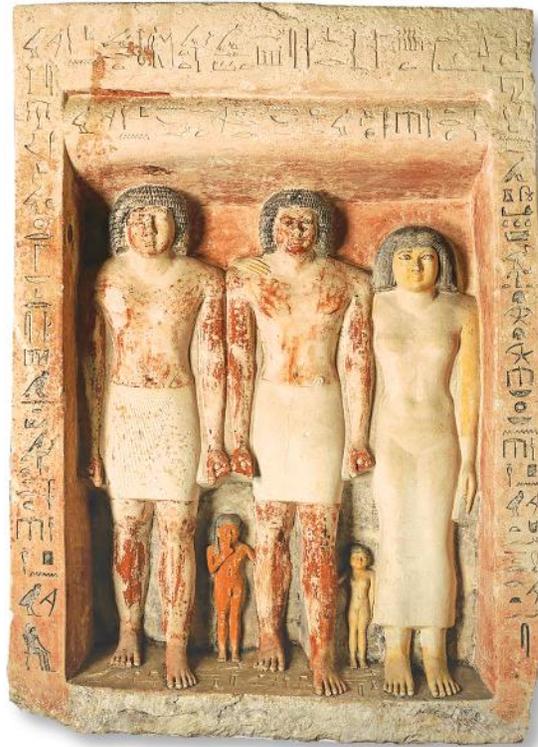
A family is a group of people who care about each other. Families can be small or large. Families can be made up of children, parents, grandparents, cousins, aunts, uncles, friends, and pets. Sometimes families live together, but sometimes they don't. Let's look together at three pieces of art that show families. Start your tour in **Gallery 105**.

Pseudo-group statue of Penmeru Gallery 105

Find this large sculpture in a case against the wall. Notice the woman with her arm around one man and the small children at his feet. Look at the children. Each child has one arm around the man's leg.

- > Do you ever hold on to your parent or someone you love? The children seem smaller than the adults. How old do you think they are?
- > Why do you think the boy has a finger on his mouth? Do you ever chew on your finger or fingernails? In ancient Egyptian sculpture, a person with a finger on their mouth represents a child.

Now let's look at the other man on the far left. The hieroglyphic writing tells us that this is Penmeru, the same man that is shown with the family. In Egyptian art, there are sometimes two images of the same person.



- > Why do you think Penmeru wanted an extra statue of himself? Imagine you could have a double of yourself. What would you have your double do?



Three Sisters of the Copeland Family Gallery 237

Make your way upstairs to the Folk Art Gallery, 237. Find this painting of three sisters. Their names are Eliza, Nellie, and Margaret. Nellie, the youngest, is in the middle. She is probably about two years old.

Each sister has something in her hands; one holds a book, one has flowers, and little Nellie has a bowl of cherries.

- > If you had your portrait painted, what would you hold? Would it be a special toy, a book, or perhaps something to eat? Notice the girls' colorful dresses. Do they look dressed up to you? What would you wear for your portrait?
- > Pretend your portrait is being painted. Stand next to a friend or family member and strike a pose. Have your grown-up take a photograph.



Museum of Fine Arts Boston

Palace Post Gallery 171

Walk over to Gallery 171 to find this wooden post. It is a statue of a mother with two children. This post once held up a beam in a palace courtyard, supporting the house, much like mothers support their families.

The mother holds one child in front of her and carries one child on her back. Notice how she cradles the child on her lap. Look at the child on her back. The baby's arms reach out to touch the mother.

- > Can you imagine how warm and safe these children must feel? Think of someone in your family, or a friend, who helps you feel safe.
- > Draw yourself with them in the box provided.

Walk to one side of the sculpture. Notice how straight the mother's back and neck are.

- > Stand as tall and straight as you can, stretching your neck toward the sky. Try and walk like this as you look for the next piece of art.



FRONT: *PSEUDO-GROUP STATUE OF PENMERU*, EGYPTIAN, OLD KINGDOM, DYNASTY 5, 2465–2323 BC. PAINTED LIMESTONE. HARVARD UNIVERSITY—BOSTON MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS EXPEDITION. WILLIAM MATTHEW PRIOR, *THREE SISTERS OF THE COPELAND FAMILY*, 1854. OIL ON CANVAS. BEQUEST OF MARTHA C. KAROLIK FOR THE M. AND M. KAROLIK COLLECTION OF AMERICAN PAINTINGS, 1815–1865. BACK: AGBONBIOFE, *PALACE POST*, ABOUT 1912–16. WOOD AND PIGMENTS. GIFT OF WILLIAM E. AND BERTHA L. TEEL © 2019 MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON.

After your visit FAMILIES

A portrait is a picture of someone, and a self-portrait is a picture you make of yourself. When you go home, draw a portrait of your entire family. Use the photo you took at the Museum, or use your memory, or draw a picture of your family when you are all together!