

Library Encounters

Level 2

AN INTERACTIVE & VIRTUAL TOUR

Huntington Education



THE HUNTINGTON
Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens

Welcome to the Library Encounters virtual tour!

Each slide features an object with questions, activities, and links to additional information.

Henry and Arabella Huntington loved to collect art, books, and plants. What do you like to collect? Comic books? Coins? Funko POP! figures?

In this interactive journey you'll dive further into the Library collection.

Let's go exploring!



Library Vocabulary

Click on a vocabulary word to start your tour.

Each word relates to an object in the Library collections at The Huntington.

Illuminated
Manuscript

Manuscript

Map

Photograph

Ephemera

Printed
Book

Once you have explored all six cards, click here!

Ephemera

Usually printed paper items that were not expected to be saved, such as event tickets, theater programs, product labels, and greeting cards.

- Do you save movie tickets, cereal boxes, or Valentine cards? Why? What else do you collect? Items like these are known as ephemera. The Huntington has a huge collection of ephemera. In fact, there are more than 900,000 historical prints, posters, and ephemera in the collection. Why do you think The Huntington collects these items?
- The set of cards shown at right was created to teach drawing skills. What do you see on these drawing cards? Does one card stand out to you?

Activity

Create your own drawing card. On a piece of paper, first make a grid. Then, using colored pencils, crayons, or other art supplies, create your own themed drawing card. What did you draw? How did you decide what to draw?

Click on these links to explore more

[Zoom in for a closer look at the cards](#)

[Explore the online collection](#)

[Prints, posters, and ephemera at The Huntington](#)



Set of nine drawing cards, ca. 1890–1915. Diana Korzenik Collection of Art Education Ephemera. The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

Map

A document that shows an area of land or sea with key features

- What do you see on the map shown at right? Buildings? Flags? Text? Zoom in to the map to take a closer look.
- There are lots of different types of maps. There are maps of the world, video game maps, weather maps, and many more. This map is an example of a portolan, a sea chart used by early sailors. It centers on the Mediterranean Sea, showing Africa, west Asia, and Europe.
- Unlike maps today, which are on paper or a computer, this map was made on parchment (animal skin).

Activity

Maps can show us different parts of the world. Launch [Google Earth](#) and explore a new map. What map did you choose? What did you learn? If you like, you can create your own map. You can include your favorite places!

Click on these links to explore more

[Explore other portolan maps](#)

[Maps and atlases at The Huntington](#)

Pick
Another
Work



Portolan chart by Luís Teixeira, Lisbon, 1590–1610, ink and pigment on parchment. The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

Printed Book

A book that has been printed on paper

- John James Audubon documented all the birds in North America in his book *The Birds of America*. Why do you think he decided to document birds?
- The birds in the book are all shown at actual size. So, this book is really big! It is called a “double elephant folio” because of the large paper size required. The book is 2 feet wide by 3 feet high. If you have a tape measure, extend it to 3 feet to see the height of the book.
- There are 435 prints of birds in Audubon’s book. Some of them are digitized online. Find a bird that stands out to you. Why did you pick that bird?

Activity

Explore either the American white pelican, the barn owl, or the blue jay on the website of the National Audubon Society. (The organization was named after the artist and is dedicated to protecting birds.) See photographs and drawings of birds and listen to bird calls.

Click on these links to explore more
[Zoom in for a closer look at the book](#)



Pick
Another
Work



From top: American White Pelican, Blue Jay, Barn Owl. John James Audubon, *The Birds of America*, 1827–1838. The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

Manuscript

A letter, document, or other composition written by hand (as opposed to a work produced in multiple copies on a printing press)

- Benjamin Franklin helped write the Declaration of Independence and experimented with electricity and lightning rods. His portrait is on the \$100 bill.
- Benjamin Franklin wrote his autobiography by hand. (An autobiography is the story of a person's life, written by that person.) He wrote with brown ink. Ink was spilled over the page shown here; how do you think that might have happened? Imagine the story.
- You are the interviewer. What questions would you ask Benjamin Franklin?

Activity

One hundred years ago, Henry Huntington showed some of his favorite books, manuscripts, and journals to members of the Author's Club of New York. One of his favorites was Benjamin Franklin's autobiography. Who are your favorite authors?

Click on these links to explore more

[Zoom in for a closer look at the manuscript](#)
[Khan Academy Benjamin Franklin Videos](#)

Pick
Another
Work



Benjamin Franklin, *Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*, 1771–1789.
The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

Photograph

A picture taken with a camera

- The Huntington has more than 800,000 photographs that were taken from the 1850s to the present day. These photograph shows Mount Wilson Observatory, located in Los Angeles County.
- When the Observatory was being built in the early 1900s, photographs were taken to document the stages of construction.
- The photographs show the construction of the Observatory's telescope dome, and the 100-inch telescope located inside. Astronomical telescopes are used to look into space.

Activity

Imagine you are looking through the telescope. What do you see? Stars? Planets? Draw your space scene.

Click on these links to explore more

[Zoom in for a closer look at the construction photograph](#)

[Zoom in for a closer look at the 100-inch telescope](#)

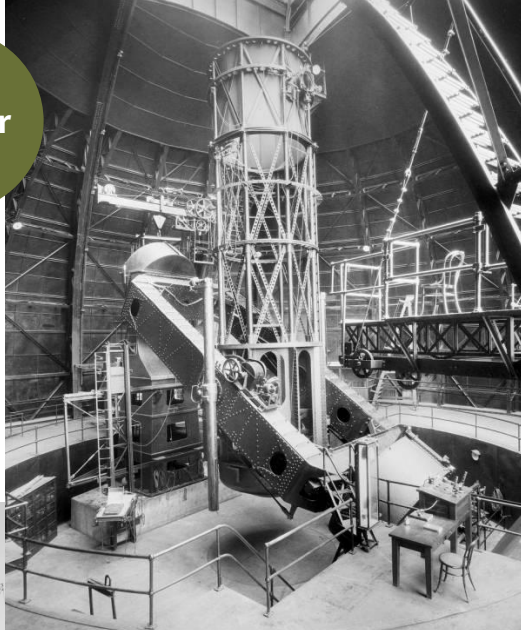
[Photography collections at The Huntington](#)

[Videos of the 100-inch telescope's construction](#)

Pick
Another
Work

Top: Hooker 100-inch reflecting telescope.

Bottom: Telescope observatory dome.
Mount Willson Observatory, circa 1920.
The Observatories of the Carnegie
Institution for Science Collection at
The Huntington Library, Art Museum,
and Botanical Gardens.



Illuminated Manuscript

A manuscript that has been decorated with colored pigments and sometimes gold, a common practice for luxury books produced during the Middle Ages

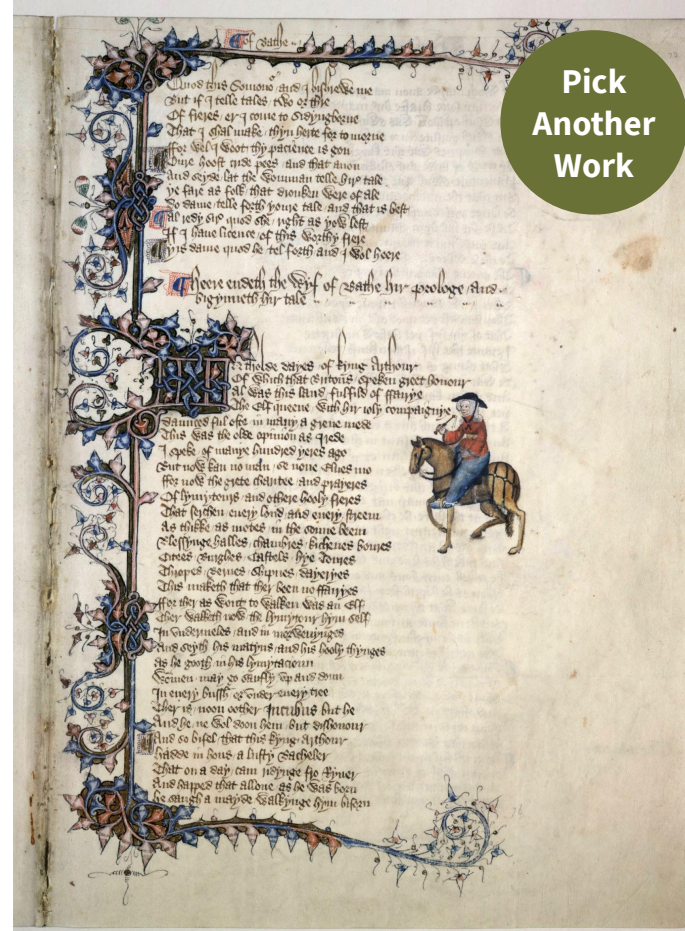
- *The Canterbury Tales* tells the story of a pilgrimage (a journey to a sacred place) from London to Canterbury during the Middle Ages—more than 600 years ago. Look for London and Canterbury on [Google Maps](#) to see how far the pilgrims (the individuals on the pilgrimage) would have traveled.
- This was written by hand in Middle English. [Listen](#) to a section of *The Canterbury Tales* read aloud. How does this sound different from, or similar to, modern-day English?
- Because it includes drawings and decorations, this is called an illuminated manuscript. There are 22 miniature portraits of the pilgrims. One is shown on the right.

Activity

Create your own miniature portrait for the text. What person or animal would you draw? Where on the page would you place your figure? Would it be happy, or tired, or dancing? You decide!

[Click on these links to explore more](#)

[Zoom in for a closer look at the illuminated manuscript](#)
[Medieval manuscripts at The Huntington](#)



The Canterbury Tales, Geoffrey Chaucer, ca. 1400–1410, ink, pigment, and gold leaf on parchment. The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

Now that you have seen six different objects from the Library,
do you have a favorite? Which one? Why do you like it best?

Was there an object you really didn't like? Which one?
Why don't you like it?

Do you have a favorite library category? Maps? Printed books?
Photographs?

What is one thing you learned about the Library
collection today?

Thank you for coming on this journey with us!
We would love to see the art and writing you made!
#TheHAtHome