

Library Encounters

AN INTERACTIVE & VIRTUAL TOUR

School Programs & Partnerships



THE HUNTINGTON
Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens

Welcome to the Library Encounters virtual tour!

In this interactive lesson, you'll explore manuscripts, maps, photographs, ephemera, and printed books at The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. Each slide shows a work from the Library, along with questions, activities, and links to additional information.

But first, let's talk about collecting. Do you like to collect? If so, what do you collect? Rocks? Pokémon cards? Legos?

Henry and Arabella Huntington loved to collect art, books, and plants. On this tour, we dive into the Library collections.

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, including 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 with 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.
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?
- 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

[Zoom in for a closer look at the map](#)
[Maps and atlases at The Huntington](#)

Pick
Another
Work



Luís Teixeira, portolan chart, 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*.
- 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 by 3 feet. 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 this bird?

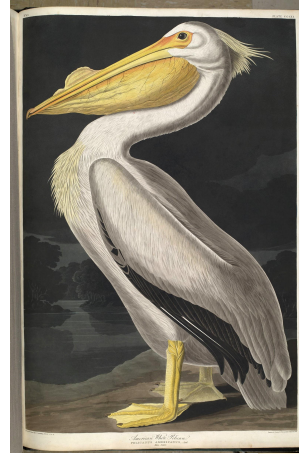
ACTIVITY

Explore either the American white pelican, the barn owl, or the blue jay on the website of the National Audubon Society, an organization named after the artist and 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](#)

[Explore other birds on the Audubon Society’s website](#)



Pick
Another
Work



John James Audubon, *The Birds of America*, 1827–1838.
The Huntington Library, Art Museum,
and Botanical Gardens.

Manuscripts

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. Why do you think ink spilled over the page? 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. This photograph shows Mount Wilson Observatory, located in Los Angeles County.
- When the telescope was being built, photographs were taken to document the stages of construction.
- The photograph shows the construction of the 100-inch telescope dome. The 100-inch telescope would be located inside. Astronomical telescopes are used to look into space. Look inside the building to see the telescope.

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 photograph](#)
[Photography collections at The Huntington](#)
[Videos of the 100-inch telescope's construction](#)

Pick
Another
Work



Partially completed construction of the 100-inch telescope dome of the Mount Wilson Observatory, 1915. The Observatories of the Carnegie Institution for Science Collection at The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

Illuminated Manuscripts

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

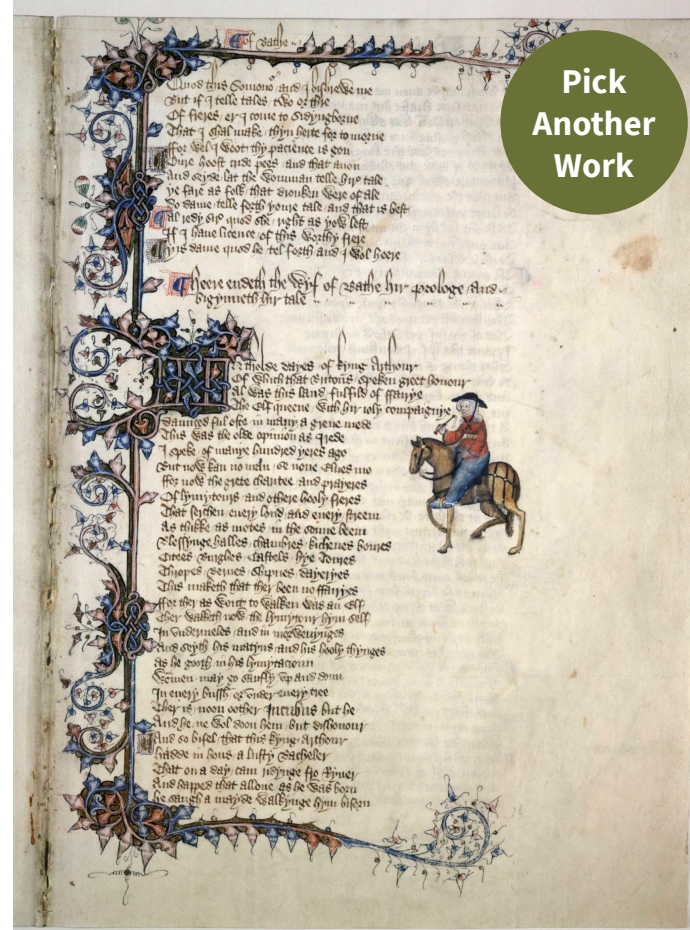
- *The Canterbury Tales* tells the story of a pilgrimage (a journey to a sacred place) from London to Canterbury during the Middle Ages—more than 600 years ago. Look for London and Canterbury on [Google Maps](#) to see how far the pilgrims (the individuals on the pilgrimage) would have traveled.
- This 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](#)



Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, 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 pieces from the Library,
do you have a favorite? Which one? Why do you like it best?

Was there a piece 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 today?

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