Name: _____ Date: _____

The Art Doctor Who Cleans a Painting

Circle group

A painting can be very old. Dust and dirt can settle on it. The paint may flake. A conservator cares for old art. She is like a doctor for paintings.

Her first rule is to do the least harm. So she does not rush. She looks at the painting up close. She takes photos before she starts.

To clean it, she uses a tiny cotton swab. She tests a very small spot first, in a corner. If the paint stays safe, she goes on. She cleans one small patch at a time.

If a bit of paint is lifting, she glues it down with care. She writes notes about each step. A future conservator can read them.

She does not try to make the painting look new. She wants to keep it healthy. Then people can enjoy it for years.

Questions

1. What is a conservator?

_____

_____

2. What does she do before she starts to clean?

_____

_____

3. What does she use to clean the painting?

_____

_____

4. Where does she test the cleaning first?

_____

_____

5. Why does she test a small spot first?

_____

_____

6. Why does she write notes about each step?

_____

_____

Words to know

conservator: a person who cares for and protects old art
flake: to break off in thin little pieces
swab: a small stick with cotton on the end
healthy: in good shape and not harmed

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Art Doctor Who Cleans a Painting

Triangle group

A painting can be hundreds of years old. Over time, dust and dirt can settle on it. The paint may flake. A conservator is a person who cares for old art, like a doctor for paintings.

Her first rule is to do as little harm as possible. So she does not rush. She looks at the painting closely, and she takes photos before she starts.

To clean it, she uses a tiny cotton swab. She tests a very small spot first, in a corner. If the paint stays safe, she keeps going, one small patch at a time.

If a bit of paint is lifting, she glues it down with great care. She writes notes about every step she takes. Then a future conservator can read them.

Her goal is not to make the painting look new. It is to keep it healthy, so people can enjoy it for many more years.

Questions

1. What is a conservator?

_____

_____

2. What does she do before she starts cleaning?

_____

_____

3. What does she use to clean the painting?

_____

_____

4. Where does she test the cleaning first?

_____

_____

5. Why does she test a small spot first?

_____

_____

6. Why does she write notes about each step?

_____

_____

Words to know

conservator: a person who cares for and protects old art
flake: to break off in thin little pieces
swab: a small stick with cotton on the end
healthy: in good shape and not harmed

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Art Doctor Who Cleans a Painting

Square group

A painting may be hundreds of years old, and over that time dust and dirt can settle on its surface while the paint begins to flake. A conservator is a specialist who cares for old art, much as a doctor cares for patients.

Her first principle is to cause as little harm as possible, so she never rushes. She examines the painting closely and photographs it before she begins any work.

To clean it, she uses a tiny cotton swab. She tests a very small spot first, usually in a corner. If the paint remains safe, she continues, cleaning one small patch at a time.

Whenever a bit of paint is lifting away, she carefully glues it back down. She also writes detailed notes about every step she takes, so that a future conservator will be able to read them.

Her goal is not to make the painting look brand new. It is to keep the painting healthy, so that people can enjoy it for many more years.

Questions

1. What is a conservator?

_____

_____

2. What does she do before she begins any work?

_____

_____

3. What does she use to clean the painting?

_____

_____

4. Where does she usually test the cleaning first?

_____

_____

5. Why does she test a small spot first?

_____

6. Why does she write detailed notes about every step?

Words to know

conservator: a person who cares for and protects old art
flake: to break off in thin little pieces
swab: a small stick with cotton on the end
healthy: in good shape and not harmed

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: The Art Doctor Who Cleans a Painting

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: The Art Doctor Who Cleans a Painting

Easier · 140 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.4

1. A person who cares for old art.
2. She looks at the painting up close and takes photos.
3. A tiny cotton swab.
4. On a very small spot in a corner.
5. To be sure the cleaning will not harm the paint.
6. So a future conservator can read them.

Triangle: The Art Doctor Who Cleans a Painting

This passage · 152 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. A person who cares for old art.
2. She looks at the painting closely and takes photos.
3. A tiny cotton swab.
4. On a very small spot in a corner.
5. To make sure the cleaning will not harm the paint.
6. So a future conservator can read them.

Square: The Art Doctor Who Cleans a Painting

Harder · 168 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.9

1. A specialist who cares for old art.
2. She examines the painting closely and photographs it.
3. A tiny cotton swab.
4. On a very small spot in a corner.
5. To make sure that the cleaning will not harm the paint.
6. So that a future conservator will be able to read them.