

Art A Day CHALLENGE: Temples of the Rising Sun

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

We challenge you to an art activity each day of the School Closure! If you decide to complete this challenge, share it with us in the comments and on Instagram @WCMFA and use the hashtag #ARTaDayCHALLENGE



Stuff you'll need: Read through the challenge to decide...the materials you use are up to you!

Words you need to know:

Orientation: the relative physical position or direction of something.

LOOK at the way the sun is shining on the buildings these pictures. That is no accident! Architects considered the **orientation** of the sun for millennia. Ancient civilizations have been designing temples and important buildings to have the sacred side face east, toward the rising sun, and entrances facing west, towards the setting sun. Many scholars think that Greeks and Romans believed gods and goddess connected with the sun. Below is a very famous Greek temple, the Parthenon in Athena, Greece built in 5th century BCE (that is almost 2,500 years ago!). This temple was home to the Greek goddess Athena



Washington County Museum of Fine Arts
2020

Parthenon ("Athena the Virgin"). She is the goddess of war, handicraft, and practical reason,

and also the city's protector. The sculpture that originally stood in the east side of the temple has been damaged over time but reproductions have been made and they help give us an idea of her size and scale in the temple.

Like ancient temples in Greece, the rotunda side of the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts also faces east! The rotunda, or rounded room with columns, is the home to the statue of the goddess, Diana of the Chase!

THINK about your home's **orientation**. When the sun is coming up in the morning, which side is the light shining the brightest? Why do you think your home was designed to face this direction? Does your home face a street? How does the sun's warmth effect the temperature in your house in the summer and winter?

MAKE a rendition of the east side of your home. This can be a drawing, painting, photograph, or any medium/technique. Make sure you capture the morning sunlight to show where the light is shining brightest

and where the shadows are cast. Give attention to the light and shadows on the details of your home (trim on a window, reflections on windows, shadows cast by pillars and columns, the shadows cast by the roof shape).

Writing Prompt: Write about how the orientation of buildings is still important today. Why would an architect take the "east facing sacred side" idea into consideration still

today?



Parthenon, Athens,
Greece



Reproduction of the Athena Parthenos statue in Nashville, Tennessee

Photograph by Dean Dixon, Sculpture by Alan LeQuire - Dean Dixon

TAG US!

Facebook: @WashingtonCountyMuseumofFineArts
Instagram: @WCMFA #ArtADayChallenge

