

We are Family!

Who are these people?

Look at this painting by Arthur Devis. It shows a big family. It was the family of a man named Sir Joshua Vanneck, who lived in the 1700s. You can see many members of Sir Joshua's family in this painting. Which one do you think is Sir Joshua? Which ones are his wife, sons, daughters, and grandchildren?



Arthur Devis (1712–1787), *Sir Joshua Vanneck and His Family*, 1752. Oil on canvas. Frick Art & Historical Center.

By The Numbers

How many children are there? _____

How many ladies? _____

How many men? _____

Can you count the hats? _____

What kind of painting is this?

Can you name different kinds of paintings? There are still lifes (paintings of things), landscapes (paintings of places), and portraits (paintings of people). This painting has parts of all three kinds— can you find them all? This is also a special kind of portrait called a conversation piece, where the people are shown talking to each other. Who is talking to whom? Imagine what they might be saying. What would you say if you were part of this painting?

Make a family portrait!

In Sir Joshua's time, a family portrait was a special way for a person to show how important he and his family were. Interview your family and list as many members as you can think of. Then draw or paint your family portrait. Think about who you would include in your portrait, and where you would pose them. Would you set the portrait in your home? Or what about a favorite vacation spot? The Vannecks included certain items (a telescope, a book) in their portrait. Would you include any special items to represent your family?

Who would you include in your portrait? _____

Where would you set your portrait? _____

What special items might you include? _____