

WHO ARE WE?— PART I

Go to the West Pavilion, Plaza Level, Gallery W103



Title: Double Portrait of the Artist's Daughters
Artist: Adolf von Hildebrand (German)
Date: 1889
Medium: Polychromed terracotta

TEACHER/CHAPERONE READ ALOUD:

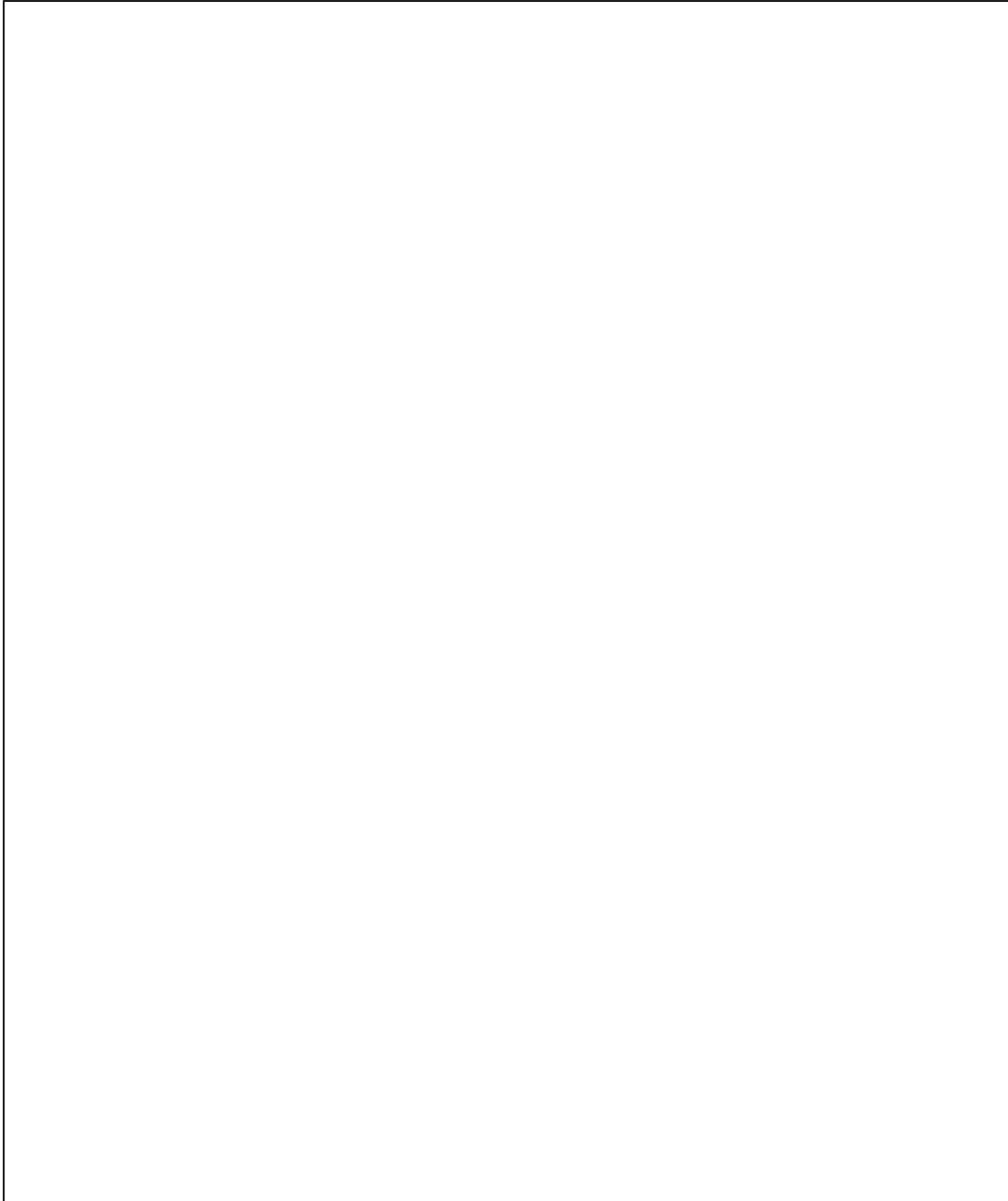
Many of the sculptures in this room are made out of terracotta, which means "baked earth" in Italian. It is a type of reddish-brown clay used to make pottery and sculpture.

Look at the sculpture of two girls.

- a.) Do the girls look alike? How?
- b.) Do you think they are related? How can you tell?
- c.) How old do you think they are? Who do you think is older?
- d.) How do you think they feel towards each other? How can you tell? Besides putting your arm around someone, what else can you do to show a person you care?

Check your answers at the end of the activity.

Draw a picture of you and a member of your family or a person you care about. Think about how you can show that you both care for each other.



Answers

- a.) Their hair, faces, and eyes are similar.
- b.) They are sisters. The artist shows the older sister with her arm around her younger sister.
- c.) On the left is Silvia, age four, and on the right is Bertel, age three. They are the artist's daughters.
- d.) Affectionate. Because Silvia has her arm around Bertel, and Bertel has her head on Silvia's shoulder.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR TEACHER/CHAPERONE:

- Modeled by sculptor Adolf von Hildebrand, who made his primary reputation producing official portraits, this terracotta is an intimate and sensitive double portrait of his daughters.
- The sisters share a moment of unguarded reflection and warmth. The older sister, Silvia, protectively holds her younger sister, Bertel. She, in turn, leans into the older girl's encircling arms.
- Although he gave the faces the most detail, Hildebrand also included much of the torsos in the bust to express physically the sisters' affectionate relationship.

WHO ARE WE?—PART II

Go to the West Pavilion, Upper Level, Gallery W201



Title: The Sisters Zénaïde and Charlotte Bonaparte

Artist: Jacques-Louis David (French)

Date: 1821

Medium: Oil on canvas

TEACHER/CHAPERONE READ ALOUD:

This painting also shows two sisters.

Look at the painting.

a.) Do the girls look alike? How?

a.) Do the girls look alike? How?

b.) Do you think they are related? Why?

c.) Who do you think is older? Why?

d.) How do you think they feel towards each other? Why?

e.) What are they doing?

f.) Do you see the bees on the couch? The golden bees were a symbol (something that stands for something else; for example, a heart is a symbol for love) of their family.

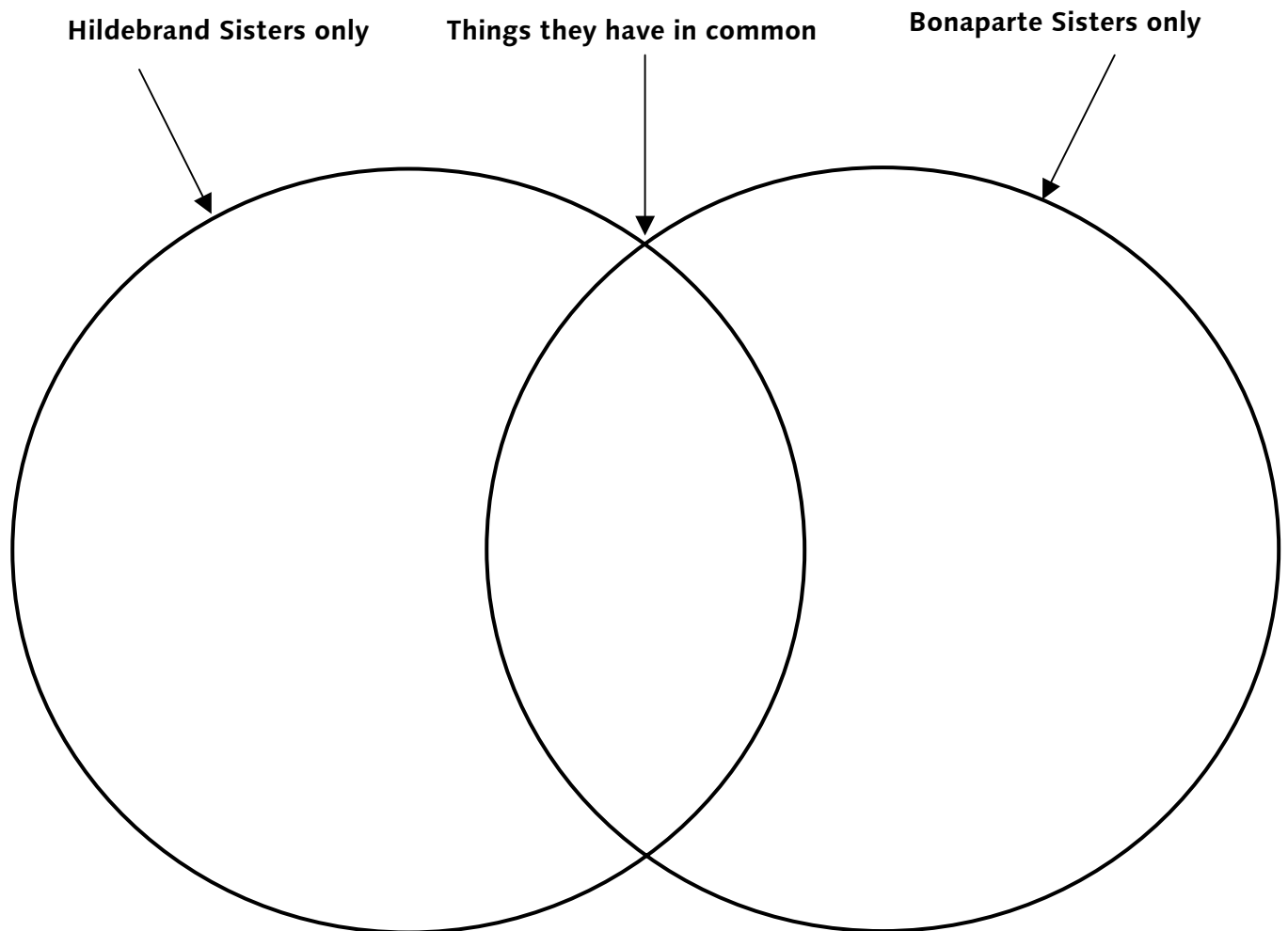
How many can you count? Remember to stay at least one giant step away from the painting!

Check your answers at the end of the activity.



Work with a partner and talk about what should go in the diagram below:

- Things the two artworks have in common (things that are the same) go in the middle.
- Things that are different go in the circles that correspond to each artwork.
- Share your answers together as a group.



Answers

- a.) Their hair, faces, eyes, and clothes are similar. They both wear tiaras on their heads.
- a.) Because they look alike and because the younger sister Charlotte, on the left, has her arm around her older sister.
- b.) The older sister, Zénaïde, is on the right. She looks more confident than her younger sister. She sits up straight and seems to look directly at the viewer.
- c.) Affectionate. Because they are sitting close together and Charlotte has her arm around her big sister.
- d.) The sisters are reading a letter.
- e.) There are twelve bees.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR TEACHER/CHAPERONE:

- The sisters were the nieces of French ruler Napoleon Bonaparte. They are portrayed by the French painter Jacques-Louis David. Charlotte, the younger sister, studied art with the artist.
- They are reading a letter from their father, Joseph Bonaparte, who was exiled in the United States while they lived in Brussels, Belgium, after Napoleon's fall from power.
- The folds of the carefully creased paper are realistically rendered, and the viewer can even make out a Philadelphia address on the letter.
- This painting was a gift to Zénaïde's fiancé.