

Website Art Hunt: The Chess Game

Visit Historic Arkansas Museum's online collection to find this artwork and answer the following questions about it.

Who is the artist? _____

What year was the painting done? _____

ABOUT THE ARTIST AND THE

ARTWORK: He might be best known for the painting the original *Arkansas Traveler*. He was well-known during his life for his **allegorical** work and for his portrait paintings. He studied in New York and had plans to study in Europe but didn't have the funds. He returned to Arkansas and lived the life of a traveling portrait painter. In this scene he has painted a chess game between his two brothers, Henry E.A. and Josiah. Edward sits between them and observes the game. Everyday scenes of Americans working and playing were the credo of American **genre art**.



FAST FACTS: The history of chess can be traced back 1500 years to Northern India. It travelled to Persia and made its way throughout Asia to the Middle East and eventually to Europe. The first official Chess World Championship was held in 1886 and won by Wilhelm Steinitz.

ENGAGE: Does your family have a game night? _____

What games do you like to play? _____

Use the back of this page to sketch out a scene that represents your family's game night.

EXPLORE: Take a closer look at the painting. How many chess pieces do you see? _____

Can you tell who is winning the game? _____

What are the dominant colors of the painting? _____

VOCABULARY:

Genre Art- pictorial representation in any of various media of scenes or events from everyday life

Allegorical Painting- paintings with figures that represent different emotional states or abstract concepts

Frameworks: R.1VAA.1, CN3.VAA.3

Historic Arkansas Museum is a historic site museum, interpreting the territorial and early statehood periods of Arkansas. For other educational materials, including videos, online tours and more, visit our website or our Facebook page.



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