

Art of the Americas

Activity Guide



This scene takes place in the Caribbean, but a Boston-born artist painted it in London. Follow along to learn about other connections between the Americas and the world.

Head to Gallery 132 to get started!

John Singleton Copley,
Watson and the Shark, 1778
Gallery 132



Many Hands

Lots of people played a role in the creation of this basin, or *lebrillo* in Spanish, from collecting and shaping the clay to painting the designs.

Step 1

People collect the clay in Puebla, Mexico.

Step 2

A potter molds the clay in the pottery workshop.

Step 3

Another person heats the basin in an oven, where the temperature reaches 1,900 degrees Fahrenheit to create an unglazed, semi-finished basin.

Step 4

A painter covers the basin in glaze, paints the design in one or more colors, and then fires the basin again to give it a glossy surface.



Connect the steps with the matching picture below to learn about how this basin was made.

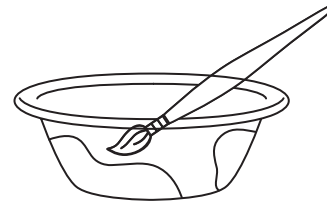
a.



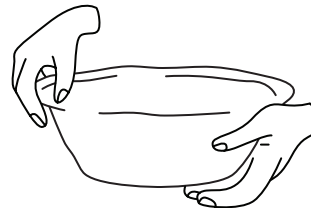
b.



c.



d.

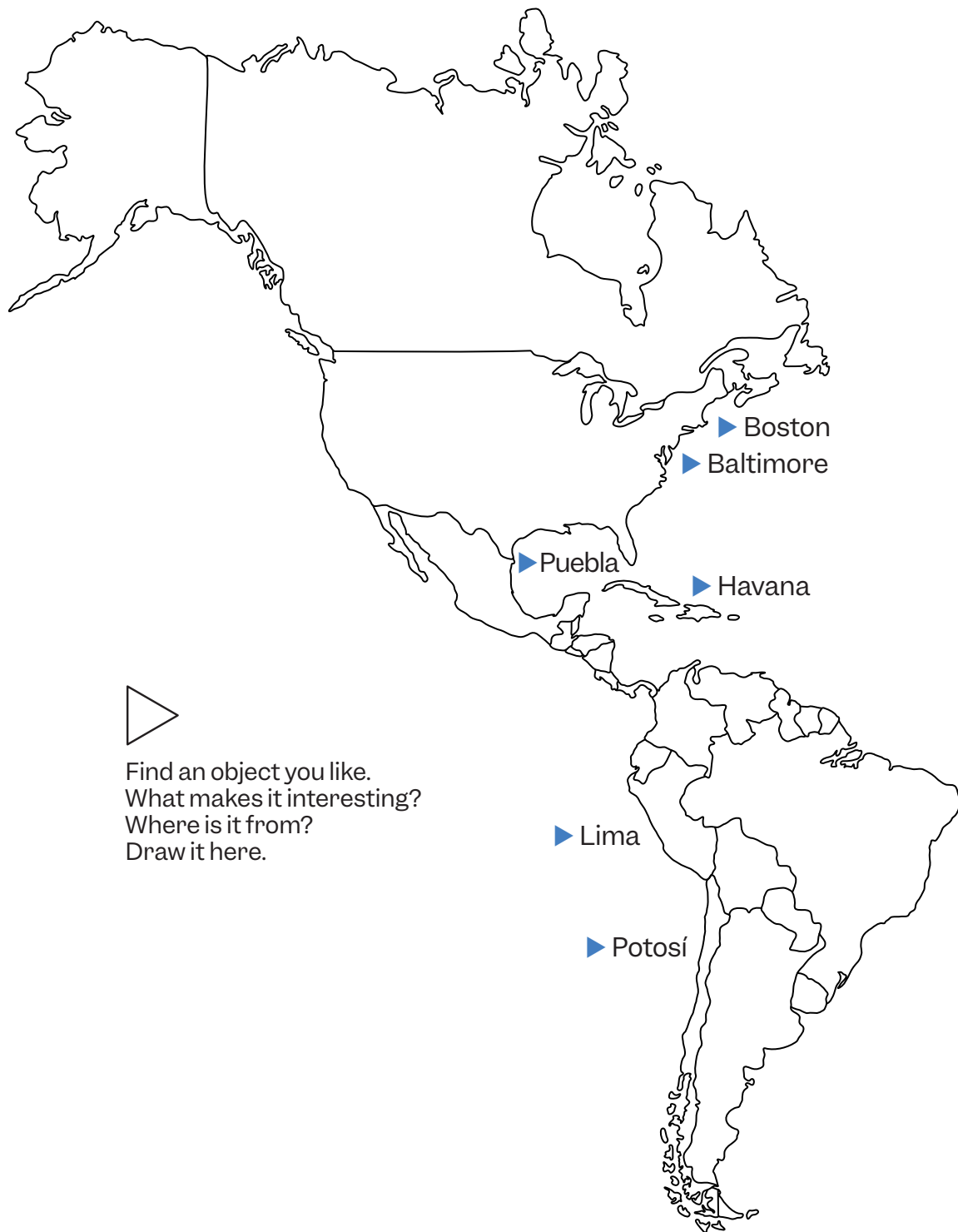


Attributed to Damián Hernández, Basin (*lebrillo*), 1650–70

Gallery 135

Across the Americas

The Americas mean all of North, Central, and South America, along with the Caribbean. During the 1700s, people from all over the world came into contact with one another, trading materials like silver and mahogany, and learning new forms of art and art making. Look for works of art from the places below.



Hot Stuff

What do you like to drink? For centuries, people across the Americas have loved hot coffee, chocolate, tea, and mate—often served with specific tools and in specific containers, which you can explore in **Gallery 127**.



What drinks do you think each object was used for? Fill in the blank!

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



What Can You Find?

A Peruvian artist made this painting of a sculpture of the Virgin Mary holding baby Jesus. It has influences from different cultures and parts of the world, including Asia!

Artist once known, *Nuestra Señora de Belén* (Our Lady of Bethlehem), Peruvian, 1700s

Gallery 128



Look closely to find details in the painting. What else can you find?

☐

Gems

☐

Animals

☐

Blue-and-white pottery

☐

Flowers

☐

Textiles

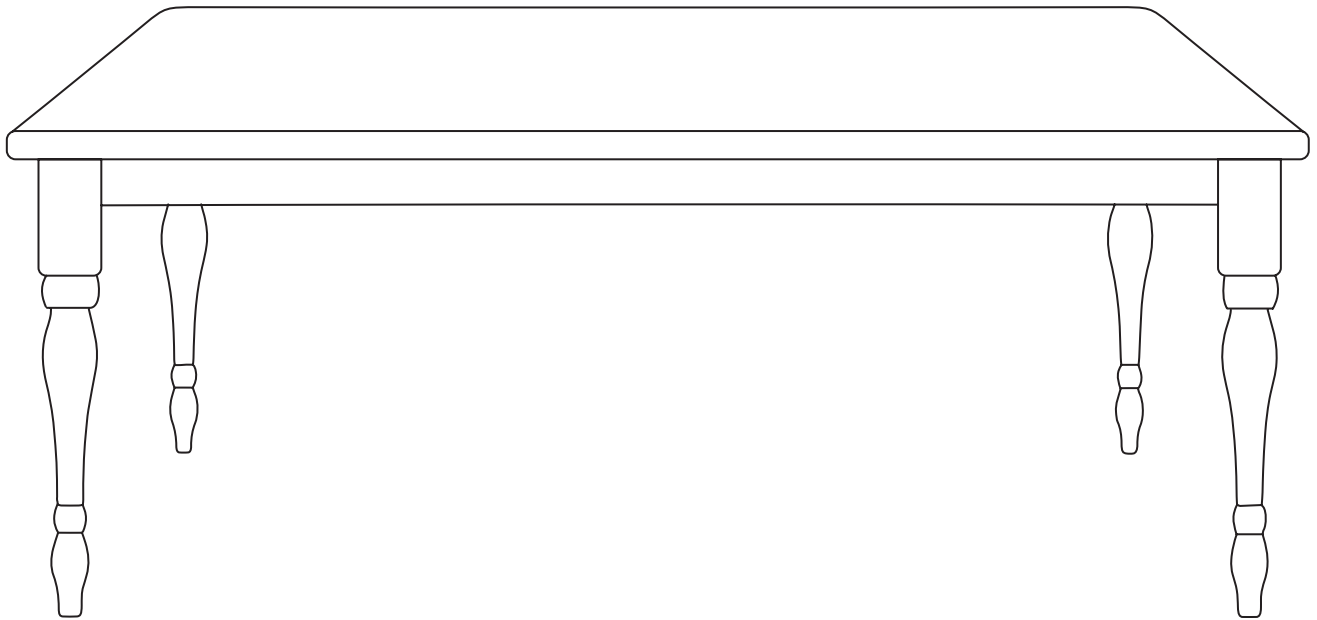
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Feeling at Home

Hartman Deetz is a Mashpee Wampanoag artist. He feels at home by creating an altar (a platform used to remember or make offerings to ancestors) displaying objects that are important to him. These can be pieces of art, feathers, photos, even shoes!



What's your favorite place or object at home? Draw or write about it below, and head to **Gallery 126** for inspiration.



Cover: John Singleton Copley, *Watson and the Shark*, 1778. Oil on canvas. Gift of Mrs. George von Lengerke Meyer. **Many Hands:** Attributed to Damián Hernández, Basin (*lebrillo*), 1650–70. Tin-glazed earthenware (talavera). Museum purchase with funds from the Estate of Robert J. Morris. **Hot Stuff:** 1. Artist once known, Bombillas, Argentinian, probably 1850–1900. Silver. Gift of Miss Ellen Graves, Mrs. Samuel Cabot and Mrs. Roger Ernst in memory of their father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund P. Graves; 3. Thomas Danforth Boardman, Teapot, 1804–60. Pewter. Bequest of Mrs. Stephen S. Fitzgerald; 4. John Coney, Chocolate pot, 1701. Silver. Gift of Edward Jackson Holmes; 5. Artist once known, Tall cup with polychrome decoration, Turkish, 1725–50. Fritware (stonepaste), white slip with blue and polychrome enamels under transparent glaze. Bequest of George Washington Wales. **What Can You Find?:** Artist once known, *Nuestra Señora de Belén* (Our Lady of Bethlehem), Peruvian, 1700s. Oil on canvas. Gift of Eugenie Walsh Flaherty in memory of Alexandra and Philip Walsh.