

# Learning to Look

## Teachers

Visitor studies have determined that 30 seconds is the average total time spent viewing a work of art in a museum.

Have your students, either individually or in a group, view this work of art for 30 seconds, then put it aside. Ask your students to think about the following questions:

- How would you describe the work? What is it? Consider the shape, material, size, designs and/or figures.
- When do you think it was made? Why?
- How do you think it was used? Why?
- After a quick view and discussion, show the students the poster again. Talk to them about what they may have missed by guiding them through a longer, more focused examination. Did the second look help students understand the work of art?
- Repeat this exercise with the image on the reverse side.

Try this activity with artwork—drawings, paintings, sculptures, ceramics and multimedia arts—in the galleries at the National Museum of African Art.

