

Art in Tatton Park Mansion

The Mansion at Tatton Park was home to the Egerton family for hundreds of years. Some of the grand rooms are enormous! The family collected paintings to decorate their home - and also to show off their great wealth and good taste. The pictures here can all be seen in the Mansion. We look forward to welcoming you and your family to Tatton Park soon, to see these and many more. Answers to the questions can be found at the end of the activity.

1) Portrait Perfection:

At home you probably have photographs of your family on display; perhaps there is one of you when you were a baby? Before cameras were invented, rich people had portraits painted of themselves and their family. In the Mansion, we have many portraits of the Egerton family. **Which of the portraits below is the oldest?** HINT: Look at their clothes...



Left: Sir Thomas Egerton

Right: Alice
Montgomery, Duchess
of Buckingham and
Chandos



Activity 1 - Paint or draw a portrait of a member of your family (ask them politely to sit still for you!)

2) Super Sculptures:

As well as the beautiful paintings we have at Tatton Park, we also have many statues and sculptures. Sculptures can be made from materials such as clay, marble, wood or bronze. The sculptures below are called 'busts' because they show just the head, shoulders and chest of the person. **What material do you think these busts are made of?**



Left: Wilbraham Egerton

Right: Alice
Montgomery, Duchess
of Buckingham and
Chandos



Activity 2 - Have a go at making a bust of someone you know out of modelling clay. Use a pencil or blunt knife to score light marks into the clay for hair, mouth and eyes.

3) Still Life:

These are paintings that show 'inanimate' objects (things that don't move) such as chairs, tables, fruit and flowers.

Activity 3 - Below are 4 pictures from Tatton Park – can you work out which ones are still life? Choose some objects for a good still life picture. Spend some time arranging them until you're happy with the result. It doesn't have to be as formal as these. Take a picture or draw it.



4) Famous Places:

Have you been on holiday and taken photographs of famous places or landmarks? Perhaps you've been to London and taken pictures of Buckingham Palace, Tower Bridge or Big Ben? Before cameras were invented, the Egertons paid artists to paint places they visited, to show off how well-travelled they were. The man on the right is Samuel Egerton. Samuel travelled and lived in a different country for a time. Look at the two paintings below. Can you guess where he was living when these pictures (by the famous artist Canaletto) were painted?



Sometimes rich travellers would buy cheaper sketches and drawings of places they had visited, as souvenirs. Can you sketch a place that you enjoyed visiting? Look at your photographs, and try to remember the 'mood', or 'atmosphere' of the place.

Answers: 1) The oldest portrait is of Sir Thomas Egerton, painted after his death in 1617. The style of his clothing, particularly the 'ruff' around his neck, and his hat, were fashionable in Elizabethan times. The portrait of Alice is much more recent. It was painted in 1901 when Queen Victoria died. 2) The busts are made from marble. 3) The still life paintings are the two in the gold frames. 4) The paintings by Canaletto were painted in Venice, Italy.

