



Kimbell Kids From Home

Furry Creatures

Kimbell Art Museum

Furry Creatures



The Japanese artist Shibata Zeshin was famous for his lively scenes with animals. These carefully studied monkeys all appear to be up to something different! **Explore the scene** and **describe** their individual expressions and actions.

Take another look to appreciate the soft, fluffy fur on the small monkeys. Each animal's fur is lighter around the edges, but darker on the body. Notice the very fine lines for fur over the soft gray smudges.

Scroll down for SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES inspired by this painting.



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Drawing Challenge

Draw a furry animal using Zeshin's "soft" drawing technique. All you need is regular paper, a sharpened pencil, eraser, and soft tissues!

Start by lightly sketching the body. Use the point of the pencil for details and the sides of the pencil for shading, especially around the edges.

Time to soften the edges! Use the tissue to smudge and blend the shading.

Add short marks with the pencil point for the fur. These lines will be right on top of the gray smudges and extend out to the lightest edges of the body.

Share your artwork online! #kimbellkids #kimbellfromhome

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Look, Write, Research



These monkeys are on the move! Use your finger to trace where each one is going. What other kinds of movement do you see?

Write a story from the perspective of one of the monkeys. Include descriptions of the landscape and the sounds of the waterfall.

Act out your story with all the sounds and actions!

Read a book or trusted online resource to learn more about Japanese snow monkeys. Fun fact #1—they are great swimmers!

Art in order of appearance

Shibata Zeshin (Japanese, 1807–91), *Waterfall and Monkeys*, 1872. Kimbell Art Museum

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