

Mondays with MoMA



MoMA

Step 1 Look closely

Questions

1. What is happening in this artwork?
2. How are the figures moving in this space?
3. Where do you think they are going?

Step 2 Learn more

Jacob Lawrence painted the Migration Series about Black Americans moving from the rural South to Northern cities in search of a better life in the first half of the 20th Century. Before starting painting, he spent months reading at the library and listening to his parents, family, and neighbors tell the tales of their own journeys.

He first wrote the stories that became the titles for the artworks and then painted all 60 pictures in the series at the same time, applying one color to all the paintings at the same time before moving on to the next color. The artwork above is #18 in the series; its title is *The migration gained in momentum*.

See the entire series and learn more:
[mo.ma/3cB7va8](https://www.moma.org/3cB7va8)

Step 3 Activity: Draw your memory

Materials: Paper, pencil, (optional: markers, crayons, colored pencils)

1. Create 3-5 drawings to tell the story of events that are happening around you. It can be something in your everyday life, something you heard from friends or family, or something you have seen or heard in the news. Use a separate sheet of paper for each drawing.
2. Create a caption for each drawing that helps tell the story of what is happening and write it at the bottom of the drawing.

Step 4 Share!

Have a conversation with your family or teachers about what you drew. Ask them what stories they might want to tell. Or, you can email your series of drawings to us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org



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Image: Jacob Lawrence. *The migration gained in momentum*. 1940-41. Casein tempera on hardboard. Gift of Mrs. David M. Levy. © 2020 Jacob Lawrence / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York