Learn with MoMA
Step 1
Look closely

1. What do you notice about this artwork?
2. What do you notice about the arrangement of the figures?
3. What other details and imagery has the artist chosen to include?

Step 2
Learn more

According to the SEE Learning framework, Interpersonal Awareness includes appreciating our shared experiences and acknowledging that “others exist and play a role in our lives.” Acknowledging others provides an opportunity to develop compassion and empathy.

This painting by Frida Kahlo represents her family. On the right side of the painting, Kahlo depicts her paternal German Jewish grandparents over the sea, symbolizing her father’s voyage to Mexico from Germany. The maternal side of her family is of Mexican descent and is represented on the left by a map showing the topography of Mexico. Kahlo represented herself as a child in the center holding a red ribbon that connects her to different generations of her family, acknowledging both her European Jewish heritage and her Mexican background. She painted this artwork in the style of Mexican retablos, colorful devotional folk paintings.

Step 3
Activity: Network of family and friends

Suggested materials: large piece of paper and something to draw with, colored pencils, markers, or crayons

1. Think of friends or family members that you feel connected to or who have had an impact on you.
2. Reflect on the role these people play in your life and think about the relationships and connections among them. If it is helpful, you can create groups and categories.
3. Draw yourself or write your name in the center of a piece of paper.
4. Create a visual representation of the friends and family you identified branching off of your self-portrait (or name), illustrating the nature of your relationships within and between or among these groups.
5. Incorporate additional visual elements and symbols that show more about their role in your life and why they are important to you.

Step 4
Share!

Share your network with a friend or family member. Or you can email it to us at MoMA: schoolprograms@moma.org.

Volkswagen of America is proud to be MoMA’s lead partner of learning and engagement.

Generous support for School and Teacher Programs is provided by the Carroll and Milton Petrie Education Program Endowment, the William Randolph Hearst Endowment Fund, and the Mimi and Peter Haas Endowment Fund for Elementary School Programs.

Additional funding is provided by the Ducommun and Gross Family Foundation and by the Annual Education Foundation Fund.

Image: Frida Kahlo, My Grandparents, My Parents, and I (Family Tree). 1936. Oil and tempera on zinc. Gift of Allan Roos, MD, and B. Mathieu Roos