A Closer Look
Maps at Mia

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An Interactive Quiz and Guide for Families
True

False
Answer: A (True)

The barkcloth paintings by the Mbuti people can be seen as maps of the forest. The patterns express the shapes and motions of the Ituri rainforests in the Democratic Republic of Congo where the Mbuti people live.
THIS MAP SHOWS EVERY HOUSE IN AMSTERDAM IN 1625

A  True

B  False
Answer: A (True)

This map by cartographer Balthasar Florisz van Berckenrode is one of the last examples of a single map showing every house in Amsterdam. Talk about detail!

Vocabulary

**Cartographer:** a person who draws or produces maps.

Balthasar Florensz van Berckenrode, *View of Amsterdam*, 1625 (probably printed later), woodcut with letterpress, The John R. Van Derlip Fund
WHAT DO THE BIRDS ON THE MAP REPRESENT?

A  Extinct or endangered birds

B  Favorite birds of the artist

C  Birds that migrate in this part of the world
Answer: A (Extinct or endangered birds)

Since 1500, at least 157 species of birds have become extinct due to overhunting and habitat destruction. The artist Jacqueline Bishop painted 26 silhouettes of extinct and critically endangered birds as “a reminder of what has been lost in the natural world.”

Vocabulary

**Endangered:** When so few are left alive on the planet, the entire species is in danger of disappearing forever.

**Extinct:** When an entire species no longer exists.
WHAT MEDIUM IS THIS PAINTED GLOBE MADE OUT OF?

A  Leather
B  Silk
C  Paper
Answer: B (Silk)

This painted globe from 1814 is made of silk and dyed pigments. Why did artist Mary Harlan make it? Maybe to get a better sense of the world.

Vocabulary

**Globe:** A map displayed on a round surface.

Mary Harlan, Painted Globe, c. 1814, silk, pigments; dyed, Gift of Mary Harlan Taylor
THE KIDS ARE SITTING AROUND A MAP OF BIG CITIES

A  True

B  False
Answer: B (False)

The kids are sitting around a map depicting a night scene of the constellations. In the center, you can see Polaris, also known as the North Star, which has a gravitational pull that brings the children closer to one another.

Vocabulary

**Constellations:** Groups of stars in a special pattern, as seen from earth.

Martin Wong, *Polaris*, 1987, acrylic on canvas, The P.D. Mcmillan Memorial Fund
3 Ways to Explore Maps

1) In the galleries
The artworks featured in the quiz are not on view now in Mia’s galleries. But you can navigate Mia’s map and see how the galleries are organized and mapped out.

2) Online
Swipe up to take a closer look at maps in the collection.

3) In the world around you
Look for maps in the places around you like parks and museums. Create your own map inspired by the activities in this month’s Virtual Family Day!