

Name:

Date:

## Lewis Miller Unpublished: A Virtual Exhibit

### *Webquest for Middle and High Schoolers*

**Introduction:** We learn a lot of history through art. Historians examine paintings, poems, and drawings, but also functional art such as pottery, architecture, and clothing to better understand the time period. Fortunately, many artists documented life in York County and we can learn a lot from them.

**Curriculum Connections:** This activity activates critical thinking skills, reading comprehension, text-based analysis, and outside research exposure. Students will pace through the virtual exhibit, looking at art and reading primary documents to answer questions and reflect. The questions are best suited for secondary education students.

#### **Instructions:**

1. Go to the online exhibit at the York County History Center's website.  
<https://www.yorkhistorycenter.org/york-pa-museums/lewis-miller-unpublished>.
2. Use this worksheet as a guide to help you explore more about York County's history through art and stories created during the nineteenth century.
3. When you get to the black bars on this worksheet, make sure to follow the instructions closely. Record your answer to the questions in the white boxes below it.

#### **First Page: Read the summary and description of artists**

1. When was Henry Lee Fisher alive?
2. Fisher named his book *'S alt Marki-haus mittes in d'r Schtadt*. What does it mean in English?
3. Why do you think he picked that name for his book?
4. What type of art did Henry Barratt create?
5. Lewis Miller created art to achieve what aim?

6. We know that Miller was successful in reaching his aim. Use your context clues and write down your evidence from this paragraph that shows us that he achieved his goal.

**Scroll down to the Photographs. Click the “start” or next arrow. Stop at the portrait of Henry Lee Fisher.**

7. Who was Fisher’s great-grandfather?
8. What two things make up the Pennsylvania German Dialect?
9. GUESS: Can you think of any other dialects unique to America?
10. Where did the majority of south-central Pennsylvanians come from?
11. Do you know where your family came from? If so, where? If not, ask a family member!

**Click the next arrow. Stop at the Photograph of the Market Houses in York.**

12. What year was this photograph taken?
13. GUESS: What else was happening in American history during that year?
14. GUESS: What types of activities would go on under a market shed?
15. Fisher wrote a lot of poems about the market sheds. He seemed to “revere” them, meaning deep respect, until he started noting what?
16. Where do you get your food? Would you like to go downtown and buy food under a market shed from local farmers?
17. What year were the market sheds torn down?

Click on this link to find out more about the market sheds being torn down:

<https://www.ydr.com/story/news/history/blogs/universal-york/2015/06/01/market-sheds-york-square-torn-1887/74059338/>

**Click the next arrow. Stop at the Self-portrait, original drawing by Henry Barratt.**

18. Why were hand drawings so important before photography?

19. Look closely at the drawing. What can we tell about Barratt? Pick two items and explain what that item says about Barratt's life or personality.

*Example: I see four books. I can infer that Barratt liked to read and that he probably wasn't very organized because they're lying on the floor.*

- Item 1:

- Item 2:

20. Looking around your room, pick one item that you would include in your own self portrait. What does it say about you?

**Click the next arrow. Stop at the Self-portrait, drawing by Lewis Miller.**

21. The summary says, "Miller drew the people and places he knew and saw, at home in York and in his travels..." Pick something YOU see either in York or when you traveled and sketch it below. Think about how future historians could use your drawing to learn about OUR time.

**Click the next arrow. Stop at The Square in York, Pennsylvania in 1799.**

22. What was York's population in 1790?

23. Go to the U.S. Census Bureau's website. How many people live in York County today?

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/yorkcountypennsylvania>

24. INFER: If most Yorkers were from Germany, what was their race?

25. Look more closely at the census's statistics. What percentage of York Countians are NOT white? What does this mean about immigration trends and the importance of multiculturalism?

Click the next arrow. Stop at 'S Alt Marikhaus Mittes In D'r Shtadt un Die Alte' Zeite'.

26. Examine the cover of Fisher's book. Considering this reprint came from 1879, they did not have many options for colors and designs. If you could go back and change the cover of his book, what colors do you think best represent York? Would you pick a different design? If so, what design and why would you pick that?

Click the next arrow. Stop at the picture of the church.

27. Examine the picture of the church on the left. A part of art is being able to turn images into words and vice versa, words into images. Look closely at the image. Write down two observations, practicing our ability to explain art using written language. Be as descriptive as you can.

Observation 1:

Observation 2:

Click the next arrow. Stop at the Quaker Meeting House.

28. The Quaker Meeting House is the oldest religious organization still operating in York County. Visit their website <https://www.yorkquakermeeting.org/>. Compare and contrast the image that Miller painted to the current status of the building and grounds.

Unique aspects of Miller's painting of the house	Similarities between the two	Unique aspects of the current day Meeting House

Click the next arrow. Stop at the Old Jail.

29. Look at the picture of the jail on the left. Like you just did for the Quaker Meeting House, compare and contrast the jail to York County Prison today.

<https://yorkcountypa.gov/courts-criminal-justice/prison.html>.

Unique aspects of the 1800s jail	Similarities between the two	Unique aspects of York County Prison

Click the next arrow. Stop at Major Clark's House.

30. Who was Major Clark?

31. How does his house show us that lawyers earned a high income? (think about a poorer person's house as a comparison).

32. Find the fire engine house. Think about what a fire engine used to look like. Click on this link to see what colonial Yorkers used to put out fires. <https://uncoveringpa.com/fire-museum-of-york-county>. Describe the fire engine below.

Click the next arrow. Stop at the Large Fire in 1804.

33. Examine the picture on the left. What types of tools are people using to put out the fire? List three.

- a.
- b.
- c.

34. Notice how people are working together to put out the fire. What does this say about the community in York at the time?

**Click the next arrow. Stop at the illustration of the Market Houses.**

35. Find Mr. Hartley's house. He was the first person from York County to become a Congressman. Click on this link to read more about him. <https://bioguideretro.congress.gov/Home/MemberDetails?memIndex=H000299>.

**Click the next arrow. Stop at the German Reformed Church.**

36. By now, you probably noticed what types of materials were commonly used for York's architecture during the 1700s and 1800s. List as many materials as you can think of below.

37. What types of materials is your house made of?

**Click the next arrow. Stop at Old Captain Staeg's Home.**

38. Look at the image on the left. Why does the man get angry?
39. What does the man do as a result of being angry?
40. The man's wife explains to him that his action will cost them. What will it cost them?
41. When you get angry, what is the one way you can handle it without breaking things and costing your family money?
42. Read the first sentence to the preface of the book. What characteristics does Mr. Fisher value the most?
43. Out of all the characteristics Mr. Fisher lists in the first sentence of the preface, which one do you value the most? Why?

**Click the next arrow. Stop at the English Preface continued. Jump to the bottom of the left page. Start reading at "In the twenty-five years..." Read the whole paragraph that continues to the next page.**

44. Why do others dislike the market sheds?

45. Why does Mr. Fisher think these people are wrong? (That the market sheds are good).

46. Read the next paragraph starting with “Besides all this...” What types of things could a person buy at the market sheds?

**Read pages ix to xv.**

47. As you read, come up with five quiz questions on your own. Pretend like you’re a teacher. What types of questions do you think students should be able to answer? Don’t forget to answer your own question!

1	Question:  Answer:
2	Question:  Answer:
3	Question:  Answer:
4	Question:  Answer:
5	Question:  Answer:

48. On page xv, a man is found dead. How did he die?

Click the next arrow. Read pages xvi to xviii.

49. While reading, stop and look up three words you do not know. Use Google or a dictionary to define the words and draw an image to help you remember.

	Vocab Word	Definition	Image
1			
2			
3			

Click the next arrow. Stop at page xx with the list of illustrations.

50. Fisher included two images that Lewis Miller sketched. Both are graphic and depict violent images. BEFORE you read what happened in the description on the right, guess why the men are killing the animals.

51. AFTER you read why the men killed their animals, reflect. Are you surprised by their actions? Why or why not?

Click the next arrow. Stop at XXII, list of illustrations.

52. Read the printed dedication page. Who did Fisher dedicate the book to?

Click the next arrow. It will zoom into the image at the top of page XXIII.

53. Read the description of the 1803 fire. What happened to the people who set fire to the barns?

54. REFLECT: Considering who Fisher dedicated the book to, why do you think he included an image of the court scene and the people? What message was he sending?



**Summary reflections.**

55. What areas of life in York during the 1700s and 1800s were NOT included in Fisher's book?
  
56. If you could make your own book of what it is like to live in York County during the 2000s, what types of artwork and stories would you include?
  
57. Try it out! Create your own "page" by drawing a picture and describing the scene below. Share it with York County History Center so they can add it to the archives!

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