

# Discover Art

WITH NEWFIELDS



Above: William Edouard Scott (American, 1884-1964), *Rainy Night, Etaples* (detail), 1912, oil on canvas, Gift of a Group of African American Citizens of Indianapolis, 13.219.

## → ABOUT THE ARTIST



INDIANAPOLIS ARTIST

### William Edouard Scott

At Left: Wm. Edouard Scott; Artist and portrait painter, famous for his "Death of Crispus Attucks" and "Sherman's March to the Sea," 1925, still image illustration. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Jean Blackwell Hutson Research and Reference Division, The New York Public Library, b11536898.

○ The artist, William Edouard Scott, was born in Indianapolis in 1884. He was African American and Native American (Cherokee and Blackhawk).

○ He went to Indianapolis Public School #23 and Emmerich Manual Training High School, and briefly attended the John Herron Art Institute (which eventually became the Herron School of Art).

○ He was the first African American to teach in the Indianapolis Public Schools.

○ In 1909, he traveled to Paris. For African American artists, Paris meant freedom and acceptance not found at home and provided an opportunity to study art and exhibit freely with other artists.

○ Scott spent time in Etaples, France where he lived and worked with other artists who may have inspired his work. Artists living in the Etaples Art Colony typically painted scenes of everyday life and experimented with depicting light sources.

## Reflections on a Rainy Night

### → CHALLENGE YOURSELF

Imagine yourself immersed in this scene:

- How many people do you see?
- What are they wearing?
- Pretend you are joining them--what will you wear?

### → SHARE IDEAS

#### Five Times Two

- List five observations about this work of art.
- Share the things you noticed with a friend or family member.
- Now repeat—see if you can add five new words or descriptive phrases to your list.

#### Shine a light

- How many sources of light can you find in the painting?
- Which sources are emitting light? Which sources are reflecting light? How do you know that?

### → BE CREATIVE

#### DJ the Painting's Soundtrack

- Look at the observations you wrote in Five Times Two.
- Think about the sounds you would assign each phrase. Would the sound be LOUD or soft? Heavy and bold or light and subtle?
- Try to find a song that you feel represents the mood or tone of the painting.

#### Experiment with Reflection

Think about objects you may have in your house that are reflective. Use a flashlight or other light source in your home to experiment with how different objects reflect light. Try reflecting light with a drinking glass, a mirror, a wet surface, or something metal.





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