

The Pope Family's Grand Tour

Episode One, Paris 1888

<https://www.hillstead.org/armchair-journey/>



ANSWER KEY:



Venus de Milo - the statue is housed in the Louvre Museum. Bragging rights for those who know the statue's location: the Museum's Sully Wing.

The name given to this statue, Venus de Milo, reflects the place that the sculpture was found - on the small island of Milos, which is in the Aegean Sea, between Crete and mainland Greece.

The sculpture itself is not signed. However, fragments of a plinth found nearby. They included the inscription: "Alexandros, son of Menides, a citizen of Antioch of Maeander made the

statue." https://penelope.uchicago.edu/~grout/encyclopaedia_romana/miscellanea/venus/plinth.html

Other records found indicate that Alexandros of Antioch lived around 80 BCE - and that he won a contest for composing and singing - a very talented fellow!

Alexandros is also credited with making a partial bust of Alexander the Great. This work is held in the Louvre's collection and was found on Delos, an island near Milos.

Have a look at the picture - do you think the same person made both sculptures? Why might that be? https://www.louvre.fr/en/oeuvre-notices/bust-alexander-great-known-inopos?sous_dept=1

Other famous representations of Venus Aphrodite include:

Sandro Botticelli(1445 - 1510)The Birth of Venus.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/early-europe-and-colonial-americas/renaissance-art-europe-ap/v/botticelli-birth-of-venus>

Titian(1490 - 1576), Venus with a mirror

<https://www.nga.gov/collection/highlights/titian-venus-with-a-mirror.html>

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The Panthéon-- Located on the Left Bank of the River Seine, The Panthéon is a 15-minute walk south of Notre Dame.

Two of the most famous books by Victor Hugo are The Hunchback of Notre Dame and Les Misérables.

Pierre Puvis de Chavannes (1824 - 1898) is the artist whose works you can see both at Hill-Stead and in the Panthéon.

Detail from the mural: The meeting of Saint Genevieve and Saint Germain of Auxerre, painted by Pierre Puvis de Chavannes. <https://francearchives.fr/fr/commemo/recueil-2018/82509201>

Theodate's father, Alfred Pope, purchased a painting called Peace in 1894 by Pierre Puvis de Chavannes, best known in France for his talents as a muralist. <https://www.hillstead.org/our-collection/paintings/english-european-artists/>

Pierre Puvis de Chavannes only received one public mural commission outside France. He received a commission to create eight panels to hang in the Boston Public Library.

Puvis de Chavannes painted the panels on linen in Paris, in 1895-96; then, shipped them to Boston. The artist never saw his works installed around the grand staircase. However, he received a sample of the Sienese marble from the staircase's construction, and he was able to capture some of the marble's tones in his murals.

<https://www.bpl.org/mckim-points-of-interest/>

For more details on the artist and his murals, visit:

<https://d4804za1f1gw.cloudfront.net/wpcontent/uploads/sites/30/2018/06/30074804/FINAL-PUVIS-FOR-WEB-5-18.pdf>

Bonus points: The firm McKim, Mead, and White designed the Boston Public Library. The firm supported Theodate's design of Hill-Stead, providing the technical drawings to accompany her plan.



The Luxembourg Palace—Luxembourg Palace is an easy 15-minute walk west from the Panthéon. Built in 1625 as a residence for Queen Marie de Medici, one wing of the Palace became a museum in 1750 (it was the first painting gallery/museum open to the public in Paris), before being turned into a prison during the French Revolution.

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Napoleon then had the building converted to house the newly established Senate in 1800. The gardens of the Luxembourg Palace are open to the public. They are a popular place to enjoy the grounds, and to sail model boats on one of the large fountains.

The main Palace building houses the French Senate. The Orangery is currently a premier place for exhibitions of sculpture, paintings, and photographs.

<http://www.senat.fr/visite/jardin/orangerie.html>



The Madeleine--Compare the picture of the Madeleine with that of the Maison Carrée in Nîmes, France.

The Maison Carrée is one of the best-preserved temples from the Roman times (19 BCE). This temple heavily influenced the design of the Madeleine.

<http://www.maisoncarree.eu/en/resources/catalogue/nimes-la-maison-carree-21/>

The Madeleine is almost 4 times larger than the Maison Carrée, but they share a similar Vitruvian architectural style.

<http://www.getty.edu/art/collection/objects/37409/bisson-freres-eglise-de-la-madeleine-paris-french-about-1854-1864/>



The Tuileries Palace--The Tuileries have been a popular location for artists to paint for many years. In essence, they offer the painter a wide range of visitors, relaxing, enjoying music, picnics, or wandering and enjoying the company of society.

There are trees, plants, and sculptures to add context, scale, and texture. Famous painters include:

Antoine Watteau (1684 - 1721)

<https://wallacelive.wallacecollection.org:443/eMP/eMuseumPlus?service=ExternalInterface&module=collection&objectId=65323&viewType=detailView>

Edouard Manet (1832 - 1883)

<https://risdmuseum.org/art-design/collection/children-tuileries-gardens-42190>

Claude Monet (1840 - 1926)

<https://www.marmottan.fr/en/collections/claude-monet/>

More recently, the popular series of children's stories about Madeleine takes the reader on a guided tour of Paris, all while following the exploits of a little girl who knows no fear: - <http://www.madeline.com/books.html>

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The River Seine--The Seine runs through the middle of the city of Paris. It has proved a compelling subject matter for painters across the ages. Some examples of famous paintings include: Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841 – 1919).

When Theodate took the steamboat to travel to St. Cloud, she would have joined the boat from this location by the Pont Neuf. [https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-](https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.52202.html)

[object-page.52202.html](https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.52202.html)



This is another painting by Renoir, showing a lively group of the artist's friends, enjoying food and drink, and spending a leisurely afternoon on a balcony of the Maison Fournaise, overlooking the Seine.

Renoir did not want to miss out on a jolly afternoon. He included his future wife, Aline Charigot, in the painting. Although she seems to be more interested in playing with her pet dog.

<https://www.phillipscollection.org/collection/boating-party>

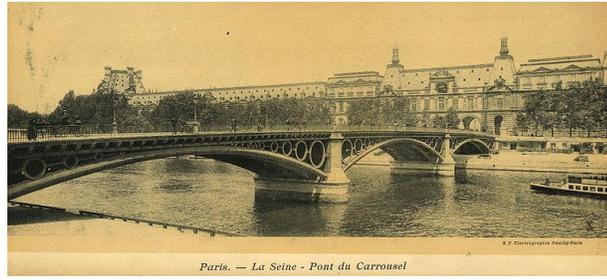


Georges Seurat (1859 - 1891): Seurat provides another view of Parisians enjoying a sunny Sunday afternoon on the banks of the Seine. Realized only two years after the Renoir luncheon party, what are some of the differences you notice in the style of painting - the people, the dogs, the surroundings?

<https://www.artic.edu/artworks/27992/a-sunday-on-la-grande-jatte-1884>

Vincent van Gogh (1853 - 1890): Vincent van Gogh lived for two years in Paris, starting in 1886. This painting from the summer of that year shows the Pont du Carrousel crossing the Seine and the Louvre Museum in the background. It almost looks as though the same bateau mouche is traveling in the painting and the postcard!

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https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Vincent_van_Gogh_-_Pont_du_Carrousel_and_the_Louvre.jpg

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Paris_-_La_Seine_Pont_du_Carrousel.jpg

The Banks of the River Seine were designated a World Heritage Site in 1991, by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (better known as UNESCO). You can find a map of the area covered by this designation at the UNESCO website:

https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/600/multiple=1&unique_number=710

BONUS MARKS:

The nearest UNESCO site in the United States to the Hill-Stead Museum has a special connection with Paris. Can you discover what that is?

You will have to wait for the answer to this Bonus Question until the next episode, but here are some clues:

1. The object that became a UNESCO site in the United States was a gift from the people of France to the citizens of the United States in 1886, although the part was on display as early as 1876
2. There are two versions on display in Paris, one at the Île aux Cygnes (Swan Island), in the middle of the Seine, and the other in the entrance to the Musée d'Orsay.

Here is another photographic clue!

<https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47e0-aff8-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>