The seasons have changed . . . it’s time to get outside!
What is your favorite place to visit? How has the scenery around you changed over the last few months? Walks and bike rides are a great way to enjoy the outdoors, and many people appreciate the sights along the Erie Canal.

MAG’s painting *Pittsford on the Erie Canal* was painted in 1837 when the artist George Harvey visited the area and sketched the scene from King’s Landing near what is now King’s Bend Park outside the Village of Pittsford. You can visit the area today along the canal east of Lock 32. But King’s Landing was lost when the new Barge Canal was built and is now under water.

**Fun Fact:** The buildings in the background are not of Pittsford. Back in his studio, Harvey copied a Rochester cityscape from a book of drawings. Pittsford was actually not even visible from King’s Landing!
The Erie Canal, completed in 1825, transformed Rochester into America’s first “boomtown.” Agricultural products and raw materials were shipped north on the Genesee River or along the state roads to Rochester where they were turned into products. Those goods were loaded onto wide, flat boats called barges, and shipped east by canal to supply New York City and markets throughout eastern America and Europe. Tourists also rode the canals on horse-drawn barges, just like they are in the painting!

Ready to draw and color? Try one or all of these ideas! (Templates on the following pages!)

**Place Yourself in the Painting and Sketch**
Imagine yourself in the painting. Where are you, and what are you doing? What do you see? How does it smell? What textures can you feel? Is there anyone with you in the picture? What lights and shadows do you see? How is the weather?

Fill in details in the “sketch starter” on the next page to complete the drawing of the scene. You may want to add yourself to your drawing.

**Create a Seasonal Calendar**
Imagine how this scene would change over the seasons. What season has George Harvey portrayed? How can you tell? Draw and color the scene in each of the four seasons and make a one-of-a-kind calendar.

**Make Your Own Stationery**
Surprise a friend or relative with an original work of art and a handwritten “wish-you-were-here” letter!
George Harvey, *Pittsford on the Erie Canal*, 1837. Oil on panel. Gift of the Margaret M. McDonald Memorial Fund, 2005.33
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I wish you were here . . .

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