

# Story of a portrait

*The Family of Charles IV*

MUSEO NACIONAL DEL PRADO





El Prado para todos

# Story of a portrait

*The Family of Charles IV*

ÁREA DE EDUCACIÓN

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This story is an educational resource used by *The Prado for all*, a programme run by the museum's Education Area to facilitate access to knowledge for people with special learning and communication needs.

This material is made available to be used as a support resource for professionals and families wishing to introduce the museum to people with different abilities.

It is illustrated with pictures made by pupils of the special education schools that took part in the programme's activities between 2010 and 2012.



Hello, I'm Francisco de Paula Antonio de Borbón y Borbón-Parma; but you can call me Francisco.

That's me in the portrait.

This painting is just a sketch, a test for a larger, more final one you'll see later on.



I'm an infante of Spain,  
son of King Charles IV,  
and I was born a long time  
ago, more than two  
hundred years.







We didn't have photographs when I was little; that's why paintings called portraits were painted.

Portraits are like photographs, but drawn and then painted.



I had my portrait painted  
by someone with the same  
first name as me: an artist  
called Francisco de Goya.







Francisco de Goya  
was the best artist in Spain,  
chief painter to King  
Charles IV, my dad.



These are my parents:  
the queen and king.





My mum María Luisa de Parma  
and my dad Charles IV.





Here they're riding their horses.



Can you guess who painted these equestrian portraits?  
Francisco de Goya.





Goya painted a portrait  
of my whole family.  
He painted it just before  
we had to leave Spain  
because of a war.

I cried loads because  
I didn't want to go;  
but we left and travelled  
in a carriage.

It was a never ending  
journey!

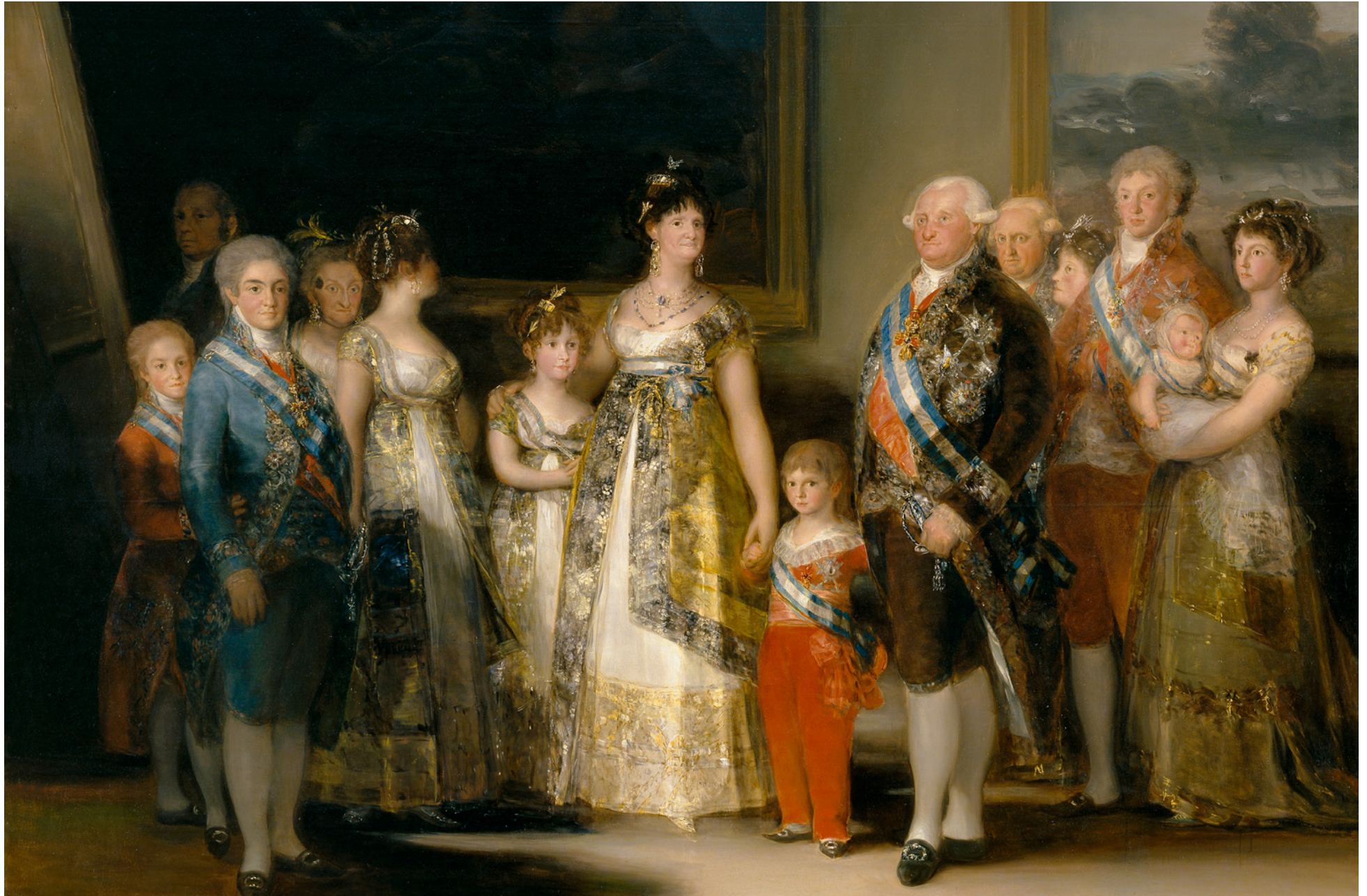




Look, here's the whole of my family before leaving.

This is the full-size, final picture for which Goya made the sketch you saw at the beginning. It's called *The Family of Charles IV* and was painted in 1800.



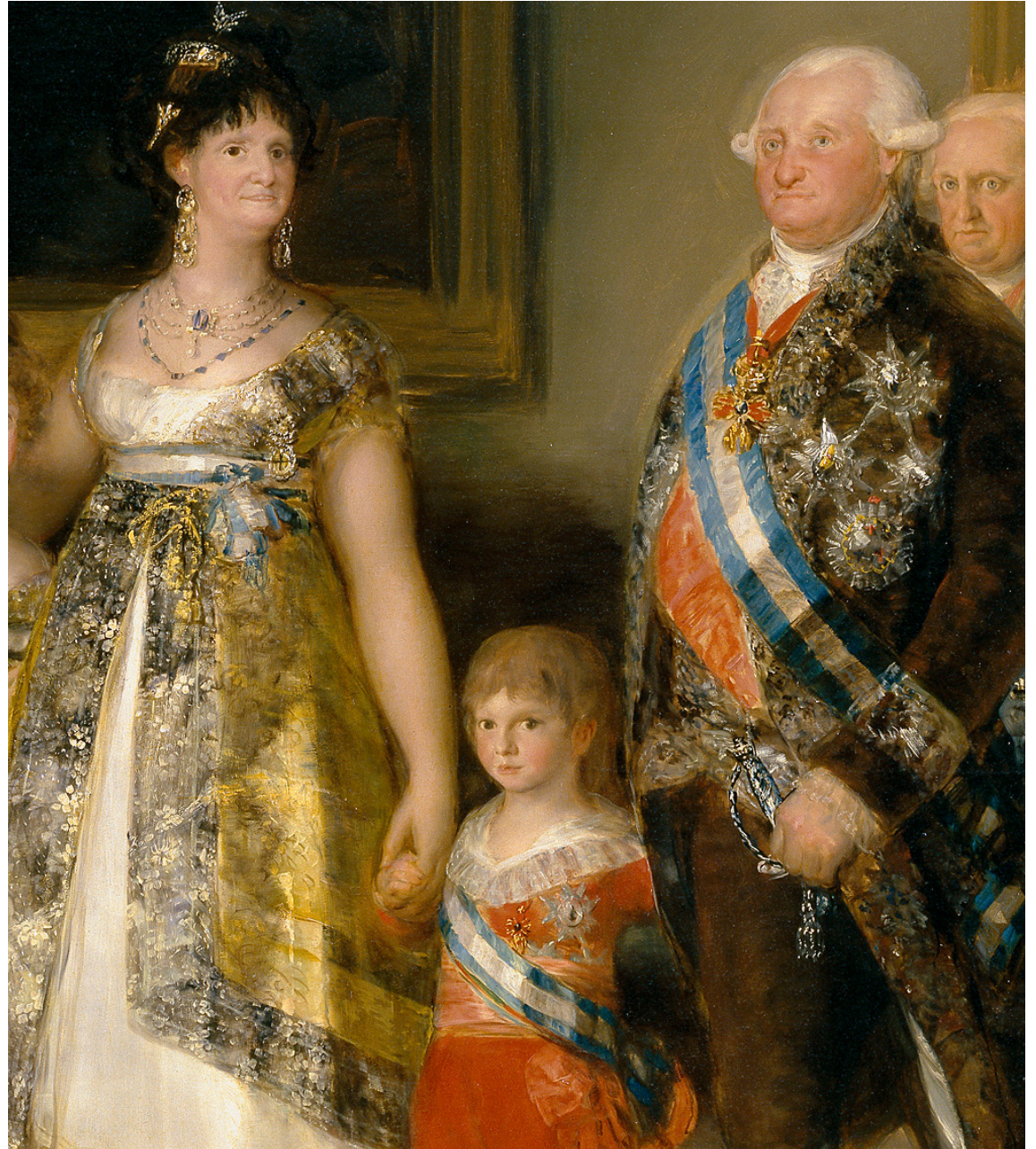




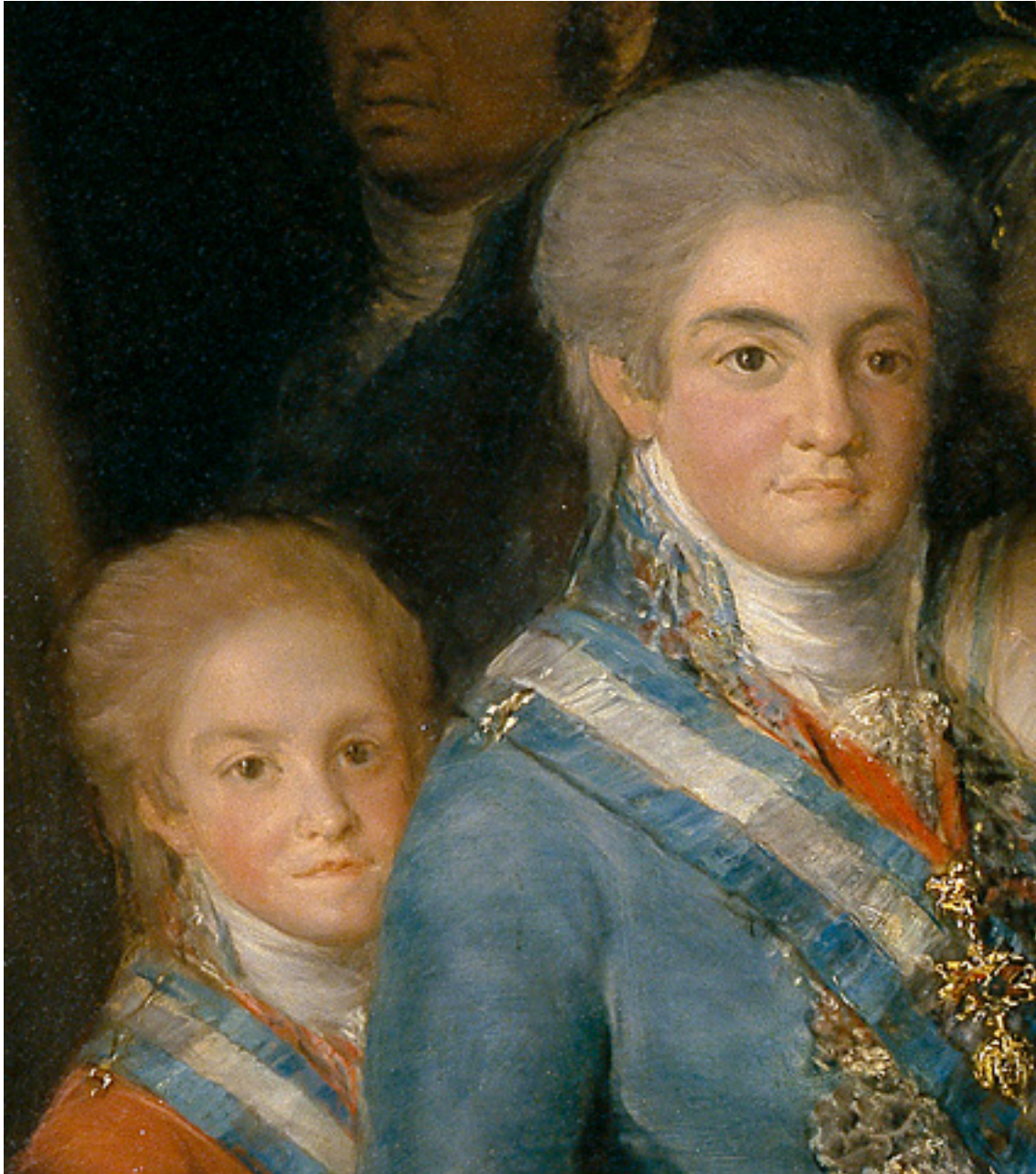
Can you see me?  
Can you recognise me?

Yes, that's me, in red,  
between my mum  
and my dad.

Look carefully.  
What objects can you see  
on my clothes?







Other relatives like uncles and aunts and brothers and sisters are in the portrait too.

My brother Carlos María Isidro is dressed in red. And the boy in the blue suit is our eldest brother who's 16: the Prince of Asturias and future King Ferdinand VII.



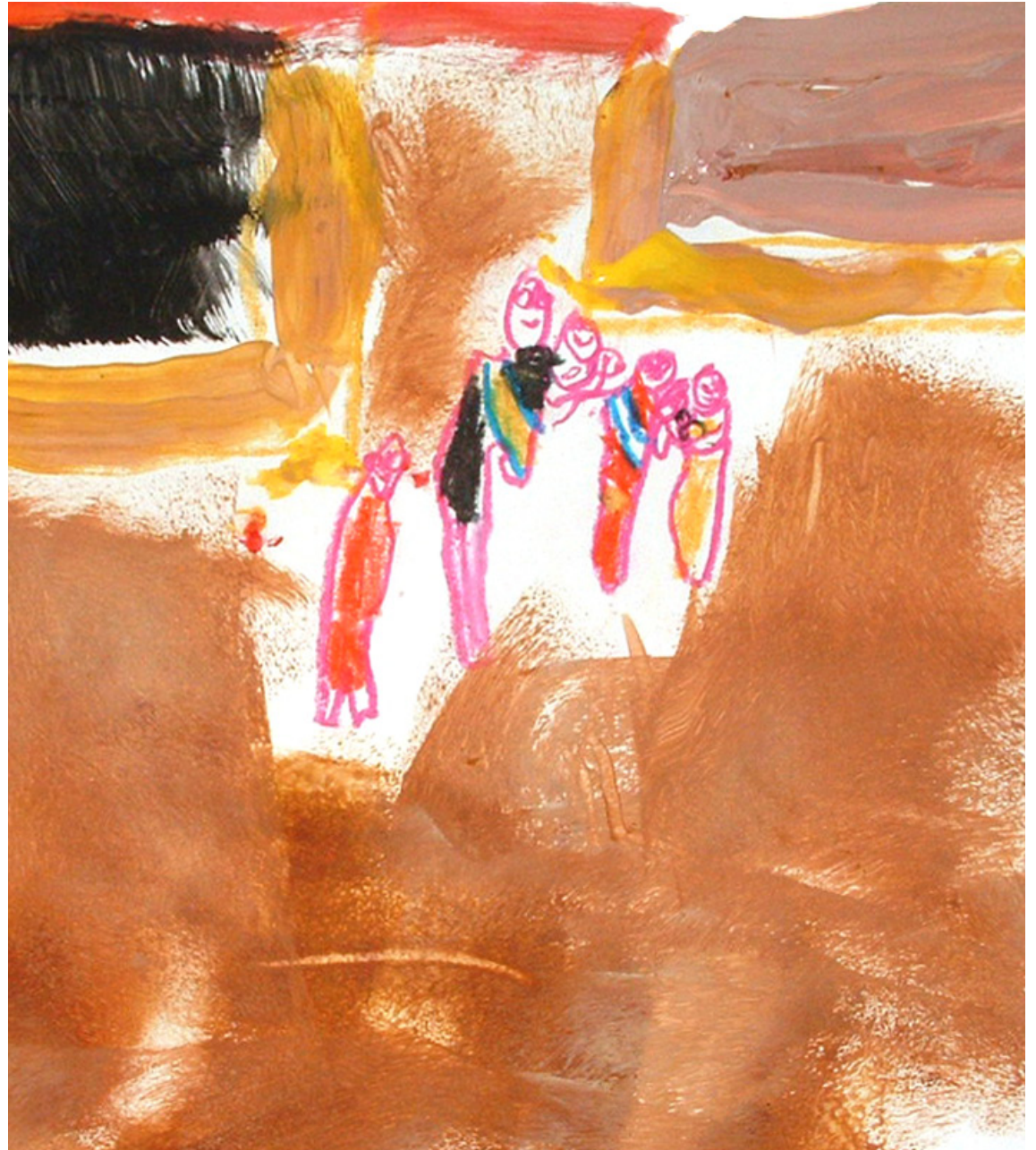
The girl next to my mum  
is my sister María Isabel.





And have you noticed  
where we are painted?

In one of the rooms  
of the Royal Palace,  
where we lived then.







Now we live in a museum,  
as our portrait hangs in one  
of its rooms.

A museum is a place where  
paintings, sculptures and  
other works of art are kept,  
looked after and shown.

Anyone can visit museums.

The museum is called  
the Prado museum.

You can come and see  
our portrait whenever  
you like.





The museum was founded by Queen Isabel de Braganza and my brother King Ferdinand VII. You saw them in the family portrait.

Here they are in two paintings you can also find in the museum.





But our portrait  
hasn't always hung  
in the museum.  
For a time it was  
kept in a storeroom.  
I remember that  
everything was very dark.  
You couldn't even see  
a spider.

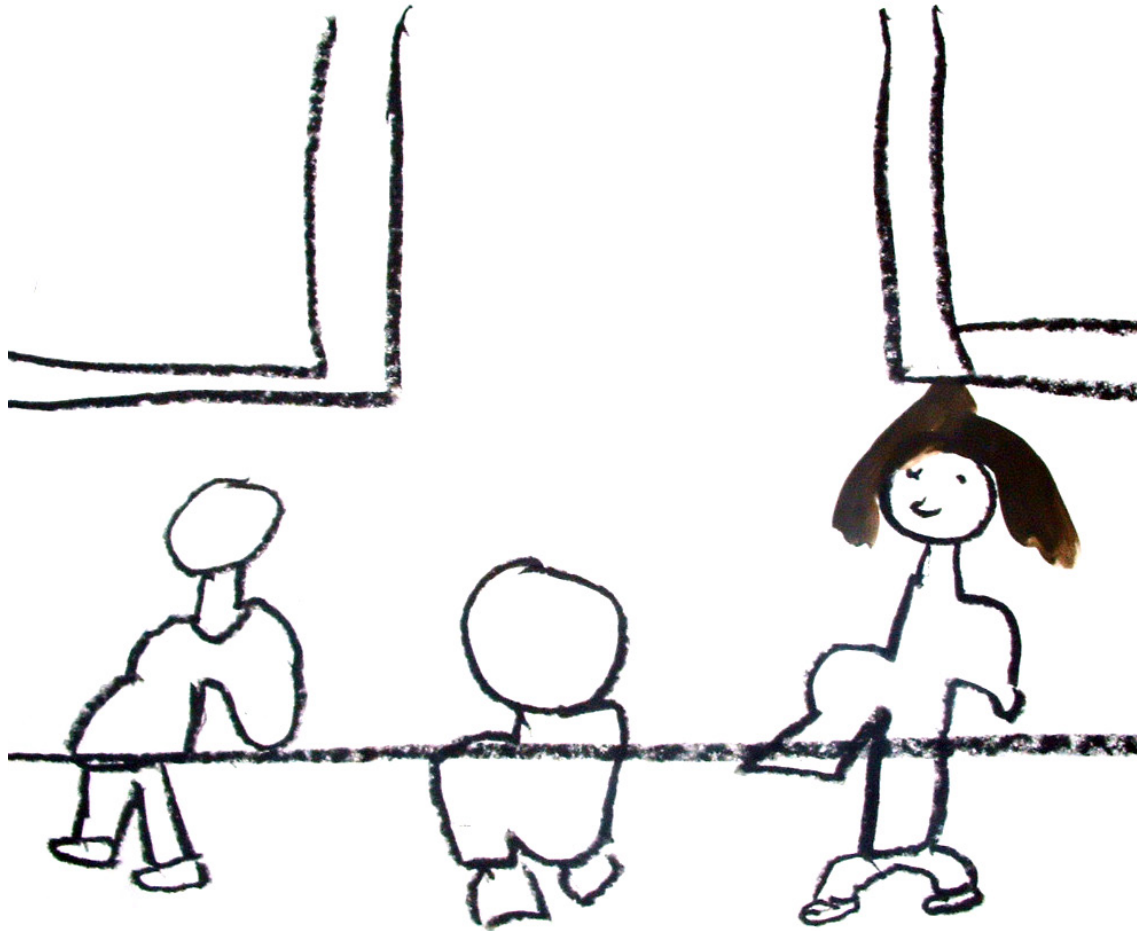






Now lots of people come to see it. Visitors must look at it in silence and not get too close. And nobody can touch it, so as not to spoil it.





There are security guards  
in the museum rooms.  
Can you tell who they are?

They're dressed in uniforms  
and carry walkie-talkies  
so they can speak to each  
other. They look after all  
the works in the museum.



This is Ana, who works at the museum as an educator. Educators help us understand the works of art better.





There are also restorers at the museum. Can you imagine what they do?

They repair and clean all the works of art to get rid of even the tiniest bugs that can attack them.



If you come to the museum  
you'll also find copyists  
there.

Copyists are painters  
who copy pictures to learn  
from the works of great  
artists. They bring an easel  
and put a canvas on it.  
They use paintbrushes  
and oil paints too.



Finally, I'm going to tell you a secret about our portrait.

Guess who's also in the picture. It's someone who isn't dressed like the rest – he isn't wearing a sash or decorations and medals.

Can you spot him?  
I'll give you a couple of clues: he's a serious-looking man. He's got the same first name as me. Can you remember his name?

Francisco de Goya.







Goya, as well as making a portrait of all of us, made one of himself, and there he is, painting in the shadows.





It's time for me to say  
goodbye.

Remember that I'm in room  
32 of the Prado museum,  
and you can come and see  
me whenever you like.

See you soon...



# MUSEO NACIONAL DEL **PRADO**

Compiled by:  
Education Area of The Prado Museum

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C.P.E.E. Francisco del Pozo  
C.P.E.E. Fundación Goyeneche  
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C.P.E.E. Princesa Sofía  
C.P.E.E. La Quinta  
C.P.E.E. Vallecas  
C.E.E. Fundación Gil Gayarre

## More information:

### About the painting:

[www.museodelprado.es/en/the-collection/online-gallery/on-line-gallery/obra/the-family-of-carlos-iv/](http://www.museodelprado.es/en/the-collection/online-gallery/on-line-gallery/obra/the-family-of-carlos-iv/)

### To visit the museum:

<https://www.museodelprado.es/en/visit-the-museum>  
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### About *The Prado for all* programme

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