Filling Losses Activity

When conservators put broken pieces of an object back together, they often have to fill in missing pieces. Some missing pieces must be added to stabilize the object for display or study. Other missing pieces are needed to help the viewer understand the shape or decoration.

When conservators fill losses, they only replace missing parts if they know exactly how the shape, design or image is supposed to look. The conservator is not the original creator of the object, so the conservator doesn’t have the authority to imagine or make up what might have been there!

Try filling in the lost images and designs from the Judgment of Paris plate, which you can see in the Carlos Museum’s Greek and Roman gallery. Compare your drawings to your friend’s. Are they exactly the same, or do they have differences? Can you know which is correct?