

## **Common Core Lesson: Exploring Famous Contemporary Artists**

**Grade Level:** Kindergarten - 3rd grade

**Subject:** Visual Arts, Social Studies

### **Objective:**

Students will be able to identify famous contemporary artists, describe their unique artistic styles, and understand their contributions to the world of art.

### **Common Core Standards:**

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.1: With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.7: With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the text in which they appear.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.2: Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.2: Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2: Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

### **Materials:**

Picture books or printed materials featuring the artists and their artworks

Art supplies (paper, crayons, markers, etc.)

**Procedure:**

**Introduction (5 minutes)**

Begin the lesson by asking the students if they have ever heard of famous artists. Write down their responses on the board.

Explain that today they will learn about three famous contemporary artists who have made significant contributions to the world of art.

**Read Aloud and Discussion (15 minutes)**

Read a picture book or share printed materials that introduce the artists Kara Walker, Yayoi Kusama, and Jean-Michel Basquiat.

Pause throughout the reading to discuss key details and ask questions. Use prompts like:

What do you notice about the artworks shown in the book?

How do you think the artists made their art?

What do you think the artists wanted to express through their artwork?

**Artist Exploration (15 minutes)**

Divide the students into small groups or pairs.

Provide each group with information and images of one of the artists: Kara Walker, Yayoi Kusama, or Jean-Michel Basquiat.

Instruct the students to discuss and observe the artworks and the unique styles of their assigned artist.

Encourage them to share their observations with the class, highlighting the key characteristics of each artist's work.

**Artwork Creation (20 minutes)**

Distribute art supplies to the students.

Explain that they will create their own artwork inspired by one of the featured artists.

Allow students to choose their preferred artist or assign one to each group.

Encourage them to incorporate elements from the artist's style into their own artwork. For example, they can create silhouettes inspired by Kara Walker or use bold colors and symbols like Jean-Michel Basquiat.

Circulate the classroom, providing assistance and positive feedback to the students as they work on their art pieces.

### **Sharing and Reflection (5 minutes)**

Invite students to share their artwork with the class.

Encourage them to describe the elements they included in their artwork and explain how they were inspired by the artist they learned about.

Facilitate a brief discussion on the students' favorite artworks and what they learned about the featured artists.

### **Culminating Activity: Artistic Reflection (10 minutes)**

Provide each student with a reflection sheet or journal page.

Ask them to draw or write about their favorite artist and artwork from the lesson.

Encourage students to express their thoughts and feelings about the artwork and why it resonated with them.

### **Resources:**

Book: "Kara Walker: My Complement, My Enemy, My Oppressor, My Love" by Kara Walker - This illustrated book provides insights into Kara Walker's work and can be adapted to introduce her art to younger students.

Book: "Yayoi Kusama: From Here to Infinity!" by Sarah Suzuki - This children's book introduces Yayoi Kusama's life and art in a way that is accessible to young readers.

Book: "Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat" by Javaka Steptoe - This picture book is a great introduction to the life and art of Basquiat for young children.

### **Extensions:**

Invite local contemporary artists to share their work and engage in a Q&A session with the students.



Create a classroom gallery featuring the students' artwork inspired by the famous artists. Research and explore other famous contemporary artists and their unique styles.

Note: The lesson duration can be adjusted based on the needs and attention span of the students.