

Common Core Lesson: Exploring Art History and Movements

Grade Level: 9th - 12th grade

Subject: Art History

Objective: Students will be able to analyze and understand the evolution of art throughout history, identify key art movements and their characteristics, and discuss the cultural and historical context of different art periods.

Common Core Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.2: Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.9-10.2: Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.1: Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

Materials:

Visual examples of artworks from different art movements

Chart paper or whiteboard

Art history textbooks or online resources

Writing materials

Procedure:

Introduction (10 minutes)

Begin by discussing the importance of art history and how it helps us understand the evolution of art and its cultural significance.

Ask students to share any prior knowledge they have about art history or specific art movements.

Art History Overview (15 minutes)

Provide an overview of art history, highlighting key periods, such as prehistoric art, ancient civilizations (Greek, Roman), the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and the modern and contemporary periods.

Discuss the characteristics and significant artworks of each period, emphasizing the societal and cultural influences.

Art Movements Analysis (25 minutes)

Introduce various art movements from the 19th and 20th centuries, such as Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, Expressionism, Cubism, Surrealism, and Pop Art.

Display visual examples of artworks from each movement and facilitate a class discussion on the characteristics, techniques, and thematic focuses of each movement.

Encourage students to analyze the artworks and discuss how they reflect the historical and cultural context of their time.

Research and Presentation (30 minutes)

Divide students into small groups and assign each group an art movement to research in-depth.

Provide access to art history textbooks or online resources for research.

Instruct students to create a presentation highlighting the key artists, artworks, techniques, and themes of their assigned movement.

Allow time for group research and preparation.

Group Presentations (20 minutes)

Have each group present their findings to the class, using visual aids and examples of artworks to support their presentations.

Encourage students to engage in a discussion after each presentation, asking questions and sharing their observations.

Reflection and Discussion (10 minutes)

Facilitate a whole-class discussion on the significance of art movements and their impact on the art world.

Encourage students to reflect on how art movements influence contemporary art and express their personal opinions on the value and relevance of studying art history.

Assessment:

Assess students' understanding of art history and movements through their active participation in class discussions and their ability to analyze and present information about their assigned art movement.

Review students' presentations and provide feedback based on the accuracy, depth of research, and clarity of presentation.

Resources:

Book: "Gardner's Art Through the Ages: A Global History" by Fred S. Kleiner - This comprehensive textbook is widely used in art history courses. It covers the evolution of art from prehistoric times to the present day, including key art movements, artists, and their cultural contexts. It provides a deep understanding of art history and is suitable for advanced high school students.

Book: "Art History" by Marilyn Stokstad and Michael W. Cothren - Another respected textbook in the field, this book offers a detailed exploration of art history, including various art movements and their significance. It includes rich visuals and in-depth analysis of artworks, making it a valuable resource for high school students studying art history.

Book: "The Annotated Mona Lisa: A Crash Course in Art History from Prehistoric to the Present" by Carol Strickland - This book provides a concise and engaging overview of art history, offering explanations of key art movements and their historical contexts. It's designed to be accessible to high school students and includes annotations and illustrations to enhance understanding.

Extension Activities:

Visit a local art museum or gallery to view artworks from different art movements firsthand. If students are based in Grand Rapids, we recommend a visit to the Grand Rapids Art Museum, Cultivate, or Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. Assign students to research and analyze additional art movements or contemporary art trends.

Encourage students to create their own artwork inspired by a specific art movement, explaining their artistic choices and the connection to the movement.