UNIT OF STUDY: Ada Caldwell, painter

TITLE OF LESSON PLAN: Building a Dream

GRADE LEVEL: 3-5

SOUTH DAKOTA CONTENT STANDARDS:

Geometry:
• 3.G.1.1 Students are able to recognize and compare the following plane and solid geometric figures: square, rectangle, triangle, cube, sphere, and cylinder.
• 3.G.2.1 Students are able to demonstrate relationships between figures using similarity and congruence.
• 4.G.1.1 Students are able to identify the following plane and solid figures: pentagon, hexagon, octagon, pyramid, rectangular prism, and cone.
• 4.G.1.2 Students are able to identify parallel, perpendicular, and intersecting lines.
• 4.G.2.1 Students are able to compare geometric figures using size, shape, orientation, congruence, and similarity.
• 5.G.1.1 Students are able to describe and identify isosceles and equilateral triangles, pyramids, rectangular prisms, and cones.
• 5.G.1.2 Students are able to identify acute, obtuse, and right angles.
• 5.G.2.1 Students are able to determine lines of symmetry in rectangles, squares, and triangles.

Writing:
• 3.W.1.3 Students can write a paragraph using supporting details.
• 4.W.1.2 Students can create sentences using words that describe, explain, or provide additional details and connections.
• 5.W.1.1 Students can compose narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive text of one paragraph.

Geography:
• 4.G.1.2 Students are able to locate major South Dakota geographical and political features.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES:
• Class discussion
• Identification of geometric shapes
• Evaluation of student writing using 6+1 Writing Traits as a guide
• Locate places on a SD map

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
• Students will learn about South Dakota artist Ada Caldwell.
• Students will evaluate the painting using VTS techniques.
• Students will identify geometric shapes in architecture.
• Students will write about what they think might go on in this type of space.
• Students will locate Brookings, SD (SDSU campus) using a SD map.
• Differentiate characteristics of an outdoor theater vs. an indoor theater.

**TIME REQUIRED:**
• One class period of 45 minutes

**MATERIALS/TECHNOLOGY NEEDED:**
• Images of the Coolidge Sylvan Theater at South Dakota State University
• Journals
• Pens/pencils
• Map(s) of South Dakota

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**
Ada Caldwell taught art at Yankton College from 1898-1899 and then at South Dakota State from 1899-1936. Not only was she known for painting, drawing, and block paintings, she was also interested in architectural design. Caldwell’s vision of designing an outdoor theater for the SDSU campus became a reality. In 1927 the Coolidge Sylvan Theater was dedicated by Mrs. Grace Coolidge and accompanied by her husband President Calvin Coolidge (Huseboe 237).

**LESSON DESCRIPTION:**
• Briefly discuss how geometric shapes are vital to architecture. Have students come up with examples of geometric shapes used in architecture.
• Show students images of the Coolidge Sylvan Theater at SDSU, but do not tell them what this area is named or what it is used for. Have students identify as many different types of geometric shapes as they can find in the architecture of this structure (rectangles, triangles, pyramids, squares, etc.). You could do this individually, in small groups, or as an entire class.
• Next, have students use VTS observation to journal about what they think this structure is, what it might be used for, and what leads them to this decision.
  • **Another idea would be to have students draw what they believe goes on in this space.
• After students have completed their journaling, discuss their ideas with the rest of the class.
• Explain to students that this is an outdoor theater located on the SDSU campus. Pass out maps of SD to have students locate Brookings on a state map.
• Students could differentiate this type of theater with an indoor theater.

**ENRICHMENT:**
Divide students into groups. Have students create and perform a one-act type play that they would perform in a theater of this design.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY/RESOURCES:**
• Coolidge Sylvan Theater image from the South Dakota Art Museum (attached)
Coolidge Sylvan Theater at South Dakota State University