UNIT OF STUDY: Charles Greener, painter

TITLE OF LESSON PLAN: Blessings at Daybreak

GRADE LEVEL: 3-5

SOUTH DAKOTA CONTENT STANDARDS:

Economics:
- 3.E.1.1 Students are able to explain ways producers use resources to produce goods and services.
- 4.E.1.1 Students are able to describe how the economic needs of South Dakotans and people in other regions of the United States have been met.

U.S. History:
- 4.US.1.2 Students are able to identify basic environmental, economic, cultural, and population issues of concern to South Dakota.

Geography:
- 5.G.2.1 Students are able to describe how climate and geography influenced the way of life of Native American tribes and the movement and activities of settlers.

Writing:
- 3.W.1.3 Students can write a paragraph using supporting details.
- 4.W.1.3 Students can compose a paragraph with a topic sentence, supporting details, and a conclusion.

Science:
- 3.L.2.1 Students are able to explain how animals instinctively meet basic needs in their environment.
- 4.E.2.1 Students are able to describe the motions of the Earth, Sun, and Moon.
- 5.P.3.3 Students are able to describe basic properties of light.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES:

- Class discussion
- Individual participation in class discussion
- Evaluation of student writing using 6+1 Writing Traits as a guide

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Students will learn about South Dakota artist Charles Greener.
- Students will describe elements of Charles Greener’s painting “Honkers at Sunrise” by answering VTS questions.
- Students will analyze the emotions that the artist is trying to depict in the painting (i.e. lighting).
- Students will compare and contrast Greener’s landscape from 1910 to what someone might see in South Dakota today.
• Students will explain how the geese in the picture instinctively get food, water, and shelter from their environment.
• Students will analyze how lighting in the painting is affected by the position of the sun.

TIME REQUIRED:
• One class period of 30 - 45 minutes

MATERIALS/TECHNOLOGY NEEDED:
• Image of Charles Greener’s painting “Honkers at Sunrise”
• Journals
• Pen/pencil

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
South Dakota artist Charles Greener is known for his portraits, landscapes, and still life paintings. This print is one of Greener’s treasures that he painted of a SD landscape in 1910.

LESSON DESCRIPTION:
• Show students the image of Charles Greener’s painting “Honkers at Sunrise”. Using VTS questioning, ask students to reflect on -
  • What is going on in the picture?
  • What do you hear?
  • What time of day is it?
  • What kind of day do you think it will be? How do you know?
  • What emotions are associated with this painting?
• As a class, discuss the answers to some of the VTS observations. In a journal entry, have students estimate when they think this painting was created and why they came to that conclusion. Have students write about how they can relate to this painting (have they ever experienced seeing anything like this). Have students reflect on the significance the time of day is to the effectiveness of this painting.
• After students have completed their journals, bring the class together to further discuss their reflections. Have students discuss when they believe this painting was created. Discuss some of the responses, then let students know that this was painted in 1910. Ask them to explain why this painting could be from today or from 150 years ago. If this painting were created today, what else might be in the picture?
• Depending on the class, there may be a number of students that can directly relate to this painting because they go goose hunting. From this you could discuss hunting in South Dakota and how important this is to our economy.
• This lesson can easily be related to science and natural habitats.

ENRICHMENT:
Students could draw a picture of a SD landscape that they enjoy. This assignment could include elements of the sun and how lighting affects the picture; it could include other SD resources that play an economic role for the state; it could also incorporate natural habitats for a variety of species, etc.
BIBLIOGRAPHY/RESOURCES:
• Greener Painting Collection at the South Dakota Art Museum
  • Charles Greener painting: “Honkers at Sunrise”