UNIT OF STUDY: Dale Lamphere, sculptor

TITLE OF LESSON PLAN: Symbol Statues

GRADE LEVEL: 3-5

SOUTH DAKOTA CONTENT STANDARDS:

**Fine Arts:**
- Visual Arts Standard Two 3-4 – Students will understand selected techniques which give artwork detail.
- Visual Arts Standard Two 5-8 – Students will describe the various techniques which give artwork definition and detail.

**U.S. History:**
- 3.US.2.2 Students are able to identify a community’s culture and history.

**Listening, Viewing, & Speaking:**
- 3.LVS.1.4 Students can demonstrate presentation skills.
- 4.LVS.1.3 Students can express ideas and convey information in an oral presentation.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES:
- Class discussion
- Observation of sculpture using VTS
- Creation of a statue following requirements stated in a rubric
- Individual presentation of statue to the class

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
- Students will learn about South Dakota sculptor Dale Lamphere.
- Students will define symbol.
- Students will identify objects/images that symbolize South Dakota.
- Students will identify an object or image that symbolizes either their county, town, school, or home.
- Students will create a soap sculpture of one object or image that represents their county, town, school, or home.
- Students will present their sculpture to the class.

TIME REQUIRED:
- Two class periods of 45 minutes each. (One class to create their sculpture and another to present their sculpture to the class.)

MATERIALS/TECHNOLOGY NEEDED:
- Image of the Dale Lamphere Sculpture: “Tall Grass”
• Ivory Soap (1 bar per student)
• Plastic spoons
• Newspapers (to cover desks)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
Dale Lamphere is described by the South Dakota Art Museum’s Winter/Spring 2004 Newsletter as a sculptor that incorporates, “…stainless steel, cast bronze, wood, and stone” (1). He mentions in the same Newsletter article that, “The common thread in my sculpture is...mass, light and shadow” (1).

This statue is located outside of the Joe Foss Building in Pierre.

Below I listed a website explaining how to create soap carvings for teachers that might not be familiar with the process.

LESSON DESCRIPTION:
• Explain to students that a symbol is something that stands for something else. Provide a few examples like a dove or the U.S. flag.
• Have students brainstorm different objects or images that symbolize South Dakota and discuss as a class.
• Next, show students the statue of Dale Lamphere’s statue “Tall Grass.” Have them use VTS observations first to describe what they see and then to think about what the artist was trying to symbolize through this sculpture. (You may need to let students know that this statue is located outside one of the government buildings in Pierre.)
• Have students think about one object or image that would best symbolize something in their town, county, at school, or their home. You could help students get started by thinking of what makes them proud of one of those places. “When you think of ______, what do you see, hear, smell, feel?” Give them a few minutes to think of several items. They can write down or sketch some of their ideas.
• Explain to students that they will be carving their object/item out of a bar of soap using a plastic spoon. (It might help to have an example already completed of something that would symbolize yourself or your family.)
• Have students cover the tops of their desks with newspapers. Pass out a bar of soap and a plastic spoon. Tell students that they will have about 30 minutes (or so) to create an object or image that best symbolizes their town, family, school, etc.
• When students are done, have each member of the class present their statue to the class explaining its significance.

ENRICHMENT:
Have students title their sculpture and then write a paragraph explaining how this sculpture best represents their town, family, school, etc.

BIBLIOGRAPHY/RESOURCES: