South Dakota Artists Curriculum Unit

Dick Termes

“Two “Hands” of Deadwood”

Provided by the South Dakota Art Museum
Brookings, South Dakota
Unit of Study: Dick Termes, 3-D painting

Title of Lesson Plan: Two “Hands” of Deadwood

Grade Level: 3 – 5
South Dakota Content Standards

Fine Arts:

Visual Arts Standard One 3-4:
Students will describe how visual arts tell stories, express moods, or convey ideas.

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.

Visual Arts Standard Three 3-4:
Students will describe how selected works of art have recorded and preserved history.
South Dakota Content Standards

U.S. History:

3.US.2.2 Students are able to identify a community’s culture and history.

4.US.1.1 Students are able to explain factors affecting the growth and expansion of South Dakota.

4.US.2.1 Students are able to describe the impact of significant turning points on the development of the culture in South Dakota.
Assessment Strategies

- Class discussion
- Observation using VTS
- Evaluation of student writing using 6+1 Writing Traits as a guide
Learning Objectives

- Students will learn about South Dakota artist Dick Termes.

- Students will discuss observations made using VTS techniques.

- Students will differentiate between the two sides of Deadwood.

- Students will research one of the following: Calamity Jane, Wild Bill Hickok, Seth Bullock, Potato Creek Joe and their role in Deadwood during this time.
Time Required

- One class period of 45 minutes

Materials/Technology Needed

- Dick Termes Termesphere titled: “Porthole to the Past Deadwood 1876”
- Access to a computer to show YouTube video called “Porthole to the Past Deadwood 1876”
- Journals
- Access to the Internet and additional library resources to research Wild Bill Hickok
South Dakota artist Dick Termes created what he refers to as “Termespheres” (Huseboe 261). These are paintings done on spheres, or other geometric shapes, that are, “. . .designed to hang from the ceiling and rotate at one revolution per minute” (261). This gives the observer a unique perspective on his art.

Dick Termes created a video that is on YouTube that shows one of his Termespheres reflecting Deadwood, SD prior to the fire that destroyed the town a few years later. The video lasts approximately 1:15 minutes.
Lesson Description

- Show students the YouTube video, “Porthole to the Past Deadwood 1876” (link listed below). You may want to show this video a couple of times to have students evaluate the many aspects of this piece by Dick Termes.

- Using VTS to evaluate “Porthole to the Past Deadwood 1876” have students write their observations of the two views of Deadwood. Some questions they could use would be:
  - Describe what you notice about Deadwood during the day?
  - What do you hear? (Sounds of the town - not background music)
  - What role does the music in the background of the video have on what you see in this piece of art?
  - How does the image of the town of Deadwood change when you are shown the reflection of the bottom of the sphere in the video?
Lesson Description continued

- After students have completed writing in their journals, have them discuss as a class.

- Have students research one of the following personalities from Deadwood: Calamity Jane, Wild Bill Hickok, Seth Bullock, Potato Creek Joe and their significance during this time in South Dakota history.

- As extra credit see how many of the students can identify the significance of the cards shown at the bottom of the sphere (“Dead Man’s Hand”).
Enrichment

- Have students create a play about a day (24 hours) in the life in Deadwood, SD during 1876. (This would require research, writing skills, group communication and participation, and presentation skills.)
Bibliography/Resources


Dick Termes Presentation to Students
Dick Termes

http://www.termespheres.com
Dick Termes

- Has been painting on spheres since 1968
- His Termespheres are recognized around the world
- Majority of spheres take about 2 – 3 months to complete, larger ones take 9 months
Bibliography


South Dakota Painting Collection
  • Dick Termes’ Termesphere: Solid Corners

*For more information or to see more of Dick Termes’ artwork, visit his website (www.termespheres.com) or contact the South Dakota Art Museum
Porthole to the Past

http://www.termespheres.com
Other Examples of Dick Termes’ Artwork
Patterns of Reflection

http://www.termespheres.com
Lakota Headmen

http://www.termespheres.com
Solid Corners