UNIT OF STUDY: Don Montileaux, painter

TITLE OF LESSON PLAN: The History of Ledger Art

GRADE LEVEL: 3-5

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.1.2. Students are able to identify basic environmental, economic, cultural, and population issues of concern to 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.
- 4.US.2.2. Students are able to explain the effects of the Native American conflicts and establishment of reservations on the Native American culture.

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.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES:
- Class discussion
- Observation using VTS
- Creation of a picture using scrap paper graded with a rubric

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
- Students will learn about South Dakota artist Donald Montileaux.
- Students will evaluate the painting using VTS techniques.
- Students will explain how ledger paper changed Native American art.
- Students will create a picture illustrating their house, family pet, or family members with scrap paper.

TIME REQUIRED:
- One class period of 45 - 60 minutes
MATERIALS/TECHNOLOGY NEEDED:
- Image of Don Montileaux’s print: “Too Close This Time”
- Scratch paper (sheets of paper that were copied wrong for example)
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils, paints, etc.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
Donald Montileaux is a Yellowbird-Oglala Lakota artist. His art is a reflection of his Lakota ancestors. He has a website that provides a lot of information about himself and various pieces of art that he has created. The link to his website is listed below.

Ledger art is significant to the evolution of Native American art. As the military rounded up Native American prisoners, the prisoners were given scrap pieces of ledger paper to draw on. For more information about ledger art, there is a link below that provides a very good explanation.

LESSON DESCRIPTION:
- Show students the image of Don Montileaux’s painting, “Too Close This Time”.
- Have students make observations about this piece using VTS questioning. Some questions might include:
  - What is this painting illustrating?
  - What is different about the paper the image is painted on?
  - What is the significance of the colors used?
  - What do you hear?
- Discuss as a class.
- Explain to students the significance of art drawn on ledger paper. Let students know that the materials used by Native Americans at that time changed because of the ability to trade with people (crayons, colored pencils, etc.).
- Also help students realize that art was one way to record events and even communicate.
- Students will have to create their own art. They will only be allowed to use the materials that you provide for them (and not all students have to receive the same things as other students (i.e. different colored crayons or colored pencils).
  - Students will be given a sheet of scratch paper, they must use the side that was printed on (their picture will be done on top of the words on the paper). Then, pass out a few art supplies to each student.
  - Their assignment is to create a picture of their family, a family pet, their home, etc.on this sheet of paper. They must consider the size of objects, colors used, etc. This picture needs to contain enough details for someone to get a feel for their picture without you telling them. Also, students are not allowed to use words on their projects either.
  - Remind them that they are communicating through art.

ENRICHMENT:
Have students illustrate an event using the same materials as above. Again, no words can be used. Students need to provide enough detail for students to figure out what event they are illustrating. Members of the class can try to tell about the event shown in the picture based on the drawing.
BIBLIOGRAPHY/RESOURCES: