South Dakota Artists Curriculum Unit

Harvey Dunn
“A Woman’s Work is Never Done”

Provided by the South Dakota Art Museum
Brookings, South Dakota
South Dakota Artists Curriculum Unit

**Unit of Study:** Harvey Dunn, painter

**Title of Lesson Plan:** A Woman’s Work is Never Done

**Grade Level:** 3 – 5
South Dakota Content Standards

U.S. History:

3.US.1.1 Students are able to identify the obstacles and successes of early settlers and Native Americans in creating communities.

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.
South Dakota Content Standards

Geography:

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

4.G.2.1 Students are able to describe how the resources of various regions and the state of South Dakota affected the growth of each.

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.
South Dakota Content Standards

Reading:

3.R.5.2 Students can choose reference materials to locate information.

4.R.5.2 Students can research a topic by gathering information from at least two sources.

5.R.5.1 Students can select information from two or more reference sources to meet a goal.
South Dakota Content Standards

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.

Writing:

4.W.1.3 Students can compose a paragraph with a topic sentence, supporting details, and a conclusion.
Assessment Strategies

- Group discussion
- Observing student research skills
- Observation of students working in small groups
- Song about a woman’s life on the prairie graded with a set of rubrics
- Individual or group presentation skills
Learning Objectives

- Students will learn about South Dakota artist Harvey Dunn.
- Students will explain what prairie life was like during the early years of South Dakota statehood.
- Students will compare and contrast the images of the women in Dunn’s paintings.
- Students will describe the roles women held in life on the prairie.
- Students will use a variety of resources to gain information.
- Students will create a song that defines the role of women of the plains.
- Students will practice oral speaking skills.
Time Required

- 2 – 3 class period of 45 – 60 minutes each (may need more depending on research or song creation)
Materials/Technology Needed

- Harvey Dunn Paintings: “Woman at the Pump”, “Fixing Fence”, and “Homesteader’s Wife”
- Large paper
- Markers
- Access to the Internet and library resources for research on women’s roles living on the prairie
- Notebook paper
- Pens/pencils
- Access to GarageBand on the Mac computers (a comparable PC software is called n-Track)
Background Information

- Harvey Dunn is an artist who grew up on the South Dakota prairie near Manchester, SD in the late 1800’s. He is widely known for his depictions of prairie life as he remembered it from his childhood. He captured many of the successes and struggles found in living on the prairie.
Lesson Description

- Show students the paintings by Harvey Dunn that help to define how he saw the roles of women that lived on the plains.

- Have students work with a partner or with a small group to list everything that they see in each picture that would help define what a woman’s role was living with her family on the prairie and write it down on their large sheet of paper.

- Have students post their sheet of paper in the front of the room. Make a master list that combines all items represented on each group’s list.
Lesson Description continued

- Next, have students conduct additional research to add to their understanding of what it was like to be a woman living on the plains. (This can be done in small groups or individually.)

- Students will take what they have researched about women of the plains and compose a song to the tune of “I’ve Been Workin’ on the Railroad”. The song will be modified to “I’ve Been Workin’ on the Prairie”. Students will create two verses of the song that represents the characteristics of these women, to salute their role in making life on the prairie work.

- These songs would be shared during class.
Enrichment

- If students have access to GarageBand (or a comparable PC version), this would be a great way for students to create their songs and incorporate technology.

- Or, students could also create a video podcast (similar to a music video) for their song.
Bibliography/Resources

- Dunn Painting Collection at the South Dakota Art Museum
  - Harvey Dunn Paintings: “Woman at the Pump”, “Fixing Fence”, and “Homesteader’s Wife”


  This source features pictures of women in a variety of roles. This website is the photo collection of Fred Hulstrand from North Dakota. The images citation is: Fred Hulstrand History in Picutres Collection, NDIRS-NDSU, Fargo.
Harvey Dunn Presentation to Students
Harvey Dunn

Images Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum
Harvey Dunn

- Born on March 8, 1884 on a homestead farm near Manchester, SD

- Mother recognized and encouraged Dunn’s talent for art

- 1901-1902
  - Attended South Dakota Agricultural College (South Dakota State University today)

- Instructed by SD artist Ada Caldwell at South Dakota Agricultural College

- Encouraged by Caldwell to continue drawing and painting at the Art Institute of Chicago
Harvey Dunn

- 1902 – 1904
  - Attended Art Institute of Chicago

- 1906
  - Started own studio in Wilmington, Delaware

- Served as one of eight artists with the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe during WWI to capture the war on paper

- Artwork shown in many magazines
  - *The Saturday Evening Post, Collier’s Weekly, Harper’s, Scribner’s*
Harvey Dunn

- Speedy painter
  - once completed 55 paintings in 11 weeks

- Died October 29, 1952

- One of America’s most successful illustrators

- Artwork includes scenes of prairie life, portraits, and scenes from WWI
Bibliography

- South Dakota Art Museum Collection
  - Harvey Dunn

- Dunn Painting Collection at the South Dakota Art Museum
  - Harvey Dunn paintings: “The Prairie is My Garden”, “Just a Few Drops of Rain”, “Storm Front”, “Gunfire”, and “Street Fighting”

*For more information about Harvey Dunn contact the South Dakota Art Museum*
Woman at the Pump

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum
Fixing Fence

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum
Homesteader’s Wife

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum
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Other Examples of Harvey Dunn’s Artwork
The Prairie is My Garden
Just a Few Drops of Rain

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum
Storm Front

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum
Gunfire

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum
Street Fighting

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum