UNIT OF STUDY: Jes Wilhelm Schlaikjer, painter

TITLE OF LESSON PLAN: Time for an Interview

GRADE LEVEL: 3-5

SOUTH DAKOTA CONTENT STANDARDS:

World History:

4.W.1.1 Students are able to describe how wars affected South Dakotans.

Writing:

3.W.1.1 Students can write statements, questions, commands, and exclamations.

Listening, Viewing, & Speaking

3.LVS.1.1 Students can incorporate listening and viewing strategies to identify the content of the presentation.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES:

- Class discussions
- Interviews

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Students will interview a South Dakota war veteran concerning how the war(s) have affected him/her or they may interview someone who lived in South Dakota during the time of WWII. (You may wish to broaden this to include other wars to include more recent conflicts.)
• Students will identify someone from South Dakota who has been affected by war.
• Students will learn interview skills.
• Students will write interview questions.
• Students will describe how someone from South Dakota has been affected by war.

TIME REQUIRED:

• Day One: 30 minutes
• Day Two: 45-60 minutes for interview (To be done outside of classroom.)
• Day Three: 30-45 minutes

MATERIALS/TECHNOLOGY NEEDED:

• South Dakota Veterans (might contact local veterans association to get a list of possible veterans willing to be interviewed.)
• Paper/pencils
• Tape recorder (optional)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Jes Wilhelm Schlaikjer was the son of a homesteader in Carter, South Dakota. He spent his youth with his four brothers working their South Dakota ranch with their father. Jes was educated at Red Hill School, Progressive Township and at Winner High School. He became a telegrapher for the local railroad while still in his teens and his first leaning toward art was when he was appointed cartoonist for the Carter, South Dakota newspaper.

With the entry of the United States in the First World War, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Jes served with distinction in France during the war, finally as the Chief Receiving Operator at the Lafayette Radio Station in Paris.

At the conclusion of the war, he resumed his artistic career with studies at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Lyons, France. Subsequent studies were at the famous
Chicago Art Institute, where he worked under Harvey Dunn, Henri, Forsberg and Dean Cornwell.

In 1942 he became official Artist of the U.S. War Department, with a studio in the Pentagon, from which he issued a long series of wartime inspirational posters for morale and recruitment. He prepared portraits of military leaders of the nation, including Eisenhower, Patton and many others. (See full background information at beginning of unit for more information.)

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

1. Discuss with the class Jes Wilhelm Schlaikjer who grew up in South Dakota and his service during World War I and World War II.
2. Discuss with the class ways they think he might have been affected by serving in two wars and what changes he might have experienced as a result of the two wars taking place. How might his life have been different if WWI and WWII had never taken place?
3. Ask the class what questions they might like to ask Jes if he was sitting in the front of the room concerning how his life has been affected by the two wars. Write these on the board.
4. Have each student interview a veteran (or someone living in South Dakota during a war). They may use some of the questions that the class discussed earlier or they may write their own questions for the interview or a combination of both.
5. You may need to help them find a person to interview. They may conduct their interview via the phone, Internet or in person. Give them a deadline for when the interviews must be presented to you.
6. On the due date for the interview, have each student tell the class who they interviewed and why and name one thing they learned during the interview of how the person was affected by the war.

ENRICHMENT:

Have the students write an essay about the person they interviewed.
BIBLIOGRAPHY/RESOURCES:

- South Dakota Art Museum
- Local chapter of Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Local library