UNIT OF STUDY: Robert Penn, painter

TITLE OF LESSON PLAN: Meaning of Symbols

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.

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.

Speaking:
- 4.S.1.1 Students are able to use complete sentences to express ideas and convey information in a clear and organized manner.
- 4.S.2.2 Students are able to use informational and dramatic presentation strategies when communicating orally.
- 5.S.1.1 Students are able to present oral information in an organized manner, supporting it with appropriate details and examples.
- 5.S.2.2 Students are able to support informational communication through the use of various presentation strategies and tools.

Reading:
- 4.R.5.2 Students can research a topic by gathering information from at least two sources.
- 5.R.5.3 Students can choose references to meet the needs of an assigned task.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES:
- Class discussion
- Observation using VTS
- Observation of group communication skills
- Creation of a class presentation following rubric requirements
- Group presentation to the class following rubric requirements
LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
• Students will learn about South Dakota artist Robert Penn.
• Students will evaluate the art piece using VTS techniques.
• Students will research symbols found in Native American culture.
• Students will create a presentation in either GarageBand or PowerPoint.
• Students will present their information to the class.

TIME REQUIRED:
• Three class periods of 45 - 60 minutes each - two class periods for research and creating their presentations using GarageBand or Powerpoint, and one class period for group presentations.

MATERIALS/TECHNOLOGY NEEDED:
• Image of Robert Penn’s painting: “Pipe Carrier With Hawk”
• Access to the Internet and other library resources
• Access to GarageBand or PowerPoint

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
Robert Penn is a South Dakota artist who is half Sioux and half Omaha. While attending USD, he was a work-study assistant and protégé of the legendary Sioux artist Oscar Howe.

LESSON DESCRIPTION:
• Show students the painting by Robert Penn titled, “Pipe Carrier With Hawk”.
• Using VTS observation, have students answer questions like:
  • What do you see?
  • What emotions do you feel looking at this painting?
  • What symbols of Native American Culture do you see?
  • What is the significance of color?
• Discuss as a class. Make a list of the different Native American symbols found in the painting.
• Divide class into three or four groups. Have each group research one of the following Native American symbols:
  • Moon and its phases
  • Hawk
  • Peace pipe
  • Lightning (this one is a harder one to research)
• Tell students that they will be creating a class presentation on their Native American symbol using either GarageBand or PowerPoint.
  • Each presentation must include (but not limited to):
    • Graphics of the symbol
    • Description of the symbol to the Native American culture
    • An interesting fact about the symbol
    • Each group member must participate in the presentation.
• Have groups present their symbol to the class.
ENRICHMENT:
Have students read the Lakota myth of the White Buffalo Woman which relates to lightning and the origin of the peace pipe.
(One version of the myth is found at <http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/446430/the_lakota_myth_of_the_white_buffalo.html?cat=37>.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY/RESOURCES:
• South Dakota Art Museum Collection
  • Robert Penn