South Dakota Artists Curriculum Unit

Robert Penn
“Painting Scavenger Hunt”

Provided by the South Dakota Art Museum
Brookings, South Dakota
Unit of Study: Robert Penn, painter

Title of Lesson Plan: Painting Scavenger Hunt

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.

5.US.1.1 Students are able to differentiate the lifestyles of various Native American tribes.
Assessment Strategies

- Class discussion
- Observation using VTS
- Identification of images
Learning Objectives

- Students will learn about South Dakota artist Robert Penn.
- Students will evaluate the art piece using VTS techniques.
- Students will identify images found within Robert Penn’s painting “Sitting Bull’s Account”.
Time Required

- One class period of 30 – 45 minutes

Materials/Technology Needed

- Image of Robert Penn’s painting: “Pipe Carrier With Hawk”
- Paper
- Pen/pencil
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, “Sitting Bull’s Account”.
• Have students use VTS observation to write down all of the images that they identify within this one painting.
  • There are several. Some include:
    • buffalo
    • horse (and why is it blue?)
    • soldier
    • Native American(s)
    • sword
    • shield
    • bird
• Have students share what they located within a small group and then with the entire class.
Have students research Sitting Bull’s significance to the Lakota Sioux culture.
Bibliography/Resources

- Native American Print Collection at the South Dakota Art Museum
  - Robert Penn print: “Sitting Bull’s Account”
Robert Penn Presentation to Students
Robert Penn

http://www.aktalakota.org/index.cfm?cat=54&artid=274
Robert Penn

- Born May 27, 1947
- Brulé Sioux/Omaha artist
- Student of Sioux artist Oscar Howe at the University of South Dakota (USD) in Vermillion, SD
- Credits Oscar Howe as his single greatest inspiration and influence
- Began professional art career at 20 years old
- Artwork includes paintings, prints, and drawings
- Artwork blends white American culture with his Native American heritage
- One of South Dakota’s greatest contemporary Native American artists
Bibliography

- South Dakota Art Museum Collection
  - Robert Penn

- Native American Painting Collection at the South Dakota Art Museum
  - Robert Penn painting: “Vermillion River”
  - Robert Penn painting: “Urban Indian Series #4”

- Native American Print Collection at the South Dakota Art Museum
  - Robert Penn print: “Sitting Bull’s Account”

*For more information about Robert Penn, contact the South Dakota Art Museum*
Sitting Bull’s Account

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum
Other Examples of Robert Penn’s Artwork
Urban Indian Series #4

ImageCourtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum
Vermillion River

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum