Assorted Lessons Using Art From Colonial America through Reconstruction

Josh “Maurice/Bon Jovi/New Jersey” Orlinsky
Freehold Township High School
Social Studies Department
Native American Portrayal: Theirs and Ours

Paintings of John White
Paintings of Charles Bird King
Plainsledgerart.org
Painting by George Catlin
Students will begin by defining both these words in their notebooks.

Students will then have to look at each of the 4 paintings from the previous slide, and characterize each as Noble, Savage or Both.

Students will then have to guess whether or not each painting was made by a European or a Native American.

We finish the lesson by going into the information on each of the painters, and a brief writing assignment as to how each is being portrayed, and what that says about the painter.

This Lesson Finishes with the film “The New World” and we discuss how Native Americans are viewed today.
Colonial Portraiture

Assorted Paintings of John Singleton Copley and John Smibert

John Smibert
William Dudley
1729

John S. Copley
Paul Revere
1768

John S. Copley
Thomas Gage
1768

John S. Copley
John Hancock
1765
Begin Discussion about the aspects of portraiture:
- What things in the background say
- Pose
- Size of Portrait
- Clothing
- Weight
- Realism Vs. Classicism

Brief discussion on Copley’s life

Compare and Contrast the different portraits, and have students guess Tory/Patriot

Concluding Assignment: What would your portrait include? (Using all the characteristics from above)
The American Revolution Through Sculpture and John Trumbull
Examining Each Painting, one at a time.

**Signing of the Declaration of Independence (1795)**
- Direction of each face
- Level of bodies (all same)
- Importance of Men at desk, posture, facing
- Lighting in the background
- Symbolism of objects in the room

**Death of Dr. General Joseph Warren (1775)**
- Religious Symbolism
- Similarity to Wolfe Painting
- Clouds and Sunlight
- Trying to stop him from “finishing the job”
- Other figures in the painting
Examining Each Painting, one at a time.

Surrender of Lord Cornwallis (1787)
- Washington in background
- Positioning of soldiers (English, American)
- Lighting in the background
- Symbolism of Cornwallis not there, height level of troops

Washington Resigning His Commission (1817)
- Religious Symbolism/“Order of Cincinnatus”
- Quotes about GW resigning his power
- Other figures in the painting
- How Lighting draws you to GW
Lesson on Nathan Hale’s role in American Revolution

“My only regret is that I have but one life to give for my country”

Historical Significance of spying

Nathan Hale, Frederick MacMonnies
Different Interpretations of George Washington and How To Study Art

Paintings, Sculptures, and Bears, oh my!
Sculputure of GW and Art

Evaluation of Realism
- Bronze George, very real, belly
- Explanation of symbolism of fasces
- Clothing
- Pose

Versus Classicism
- Marble George
- Jacked
- Greek Clothing
- Seated Pose
- Semi-Nude

Compare and Contrast
- Importance of Each
- Controversy in each
Paintings of GW and Art

Stuart’s GW

Simple
Elegant
Humanistic

Peale’s GW

After battle of Princeton
Regal/Triumphant
Importance of background pieces
Stature

Savage’s GW

Family Portrait (not his children)
Significance of drapes/background
Significance of Slave in portrait
Martha pointing to future site of DC on map
The War of 1812 through Art

Painting by George Ropes
The Launching of the ship Fame
Explanation of what “Privateering” was
Personal experiences with that

Detail of small people in foreground
Vastness of background of nature
Story of the Fame boat
Very Bright nature of painting

Launching Of the
Ship Fame
George Ropes
1802
I’m on a boat!

Mr. O on a replica
Of the Fame
Reform Movements in America, focusing on Immigration and Landscape Painting

William H. Powell
Discovery of the Mississippi
1847
Students will be completing a project where they will identify when both sides of their family emigrated to America

Must Include:

- Written out Family Tree complete with Names/Birthdates
- Explanation of why your family came to this country
- Pictures
- Resources used
- Where the family lived

Debriefing will include an overall evaluation, plus actual family genealogy books from the era (inspired by the Philips museum)
Focusing on the Hudson River School:
Frederic Church
Albert Bierstadt
Thomas Cole
Jasper Cropsey

Art and Landscape Painting As Part of the Reform Movement

Thomas Cole
View from Mount Holyoke
1836

Styles of Painting
- Sublime
- Picturesque
- Beautiful
- Topographic
Types of Landscapes

**Topographic**

*Thomas Birch*
*Fairmount Water Works*
*1821*

- Very Detailed
- Calming/Relaxing
- Attention to detail

**Sublime**

*Frederic Church*
*Twilight in the Wilderness*
*1860*

- Very Dark
- Vast
- People Small
Types of Landscapes

Picturesque

Doughty
In the Catskills, 1835

Calming
Man is there, and is almost a Focus
Foreground Rock
Background
Mountain/Waterfall
Smooth tones/lines

“The Beautiful”—Calm, serene, appreciating the beauty of nature. Better than nature. Making it perfect

Claude Lorrain
The Mill
1631
Concluding Activity:
Students have to choose one of the Hudson River School Painters, choose a painting that is their favorite, describe what type of painting it is, and then go into a written detail explain the different aspects of the painting.

*Frederic Church*
*Niagara Falls*
*1857*
Two Sides to Every Story

John Gast
1872
The Angel of Manifest Destiny
Students are to examine the painting and describe:

Aesthetic aspects of the painting

How it represents the idea of Manifest Destiny

How it shows MD in a positive manner

How it acts as an advertisement for people to come west

Emmanuel Leutze
*Westward the Course of Empire Takes its Way*

1851
Students are to examine the painting and describe:

Aesthetic aspects of the painting

How it represents the idea of Manifest Destiny

How it shows MD in a positive manner

How it acts as an advertisement for people to come west

Indians off to the Right
Seemingly being left Behind

Open space up top to Signify more land and Opportunity

Technology and Industry

Fanny Palmer
Across the Continent:
Westward the Course of Empire takes its way
1868
Students are to examine the painting and describe:

Aesthetic aspects of the painting

How it represents the idea of Manifest Destiny

How it shows MD in a Negative manner

How it shows how Manifest Destiny negatively affected Native Americans

Tompkins H. Matteson
The Last of the Race
1847
Students are to examine the painting and describe:

Aesthetic aspects of the painting

How it represents the idea of Manifest Destiny

How it shows MD in a Negative manner

How it shows how Manifest Destiny negatively affected Native Americans

Henry Farny
1906
Morning of a New Day
Evolution from 1750-1880

Students will identify the differences in both sculpture and painting how African Americans are portrayed.

Louis Schultze (American, ),
*Portrait of Dred Scott, 1882.*
Am I not a man and a brother
Josiah Wedgwood
The Rising

Students will focus on:

- Physical Form
- Pose
- Color
- Symbolism
- Religious

John Quincy Adams Ward
- The Freedman
- Bronze 1863
- Debate between Classicism and Realism

Sitting on a Tree Trunk
- Muscular
- Looking Up/showing promise
- Ready to “Get up”, but not standing yet
- Not Scarred
- Togalike clothing
Students will focus on:
- Physical Form
- Pose
- Color
- Symbolism
- Religious

Compare/Contrast

Edmonia Lewis (Half black/half native American)
Forever Free
1867 Marble

Black Man, now in WHITE marble
Now black man is standing
Now the purveyor of hope/protection instead of needing help
Looking Up, as if maybe still looking for “hope”
Stepping on Ball/Chain. May or may not be still Shackled
She seems to be still shackled

Augustus Saint Gaudens
Colonel Robert Gould Shaw
54th Massachusetts Memorial
1884-1897
Made with the slaves by the request of the family.
Incorporates the power of former Slaves
Top 10 Reasons why NJ is better than your state:

10. New Jersey has the most diners in the world and is sometimes referred to as the diner capital of the world.
9. New Jersey is home to the Miss America pageant held in Atlantic City
8. The first baseball game was played in Hoboken.
7. The first intercollegiate football game was played in New Brunswick, in 1869. Rutgers College played Princeton. Rutgers won.
6. North Jersey is the car theft capital of the world, with more cars stolen in Newark then any other city. Even the 2 largest cities, NYC and LA put together.
Top 10 Reasons why NJ is better than your state:

5. New Jersey has given you the following famous people: Frank Sinatra, Naughty By Nature, Jason Alexander, Queen Latifah, Aaron Burr, Grover Cleveland and Bruce Springsteen.

4. Thomas Edison Invented the Light Bulb in Menlo. Let there be light!

3. Two words: Jersey Shore!

2. 2/3 of the world's eggplants come from NJ. In addition, we have the BEST Blueberries and Cranberries money can buy.


Enjoy!