



Using Art in History and Literature Classes: What's the Story?

An Online Professional Development Seminar



Stanton McDonald-Wright
Street Synchrony, 1917
North Carolina Museum of Art

Part 1: Visual Analysis
Part 2: Historical Context

John Coffey, Deputy Director for Art
Ashley Weinard, Educator
North Carolina Museum of Art

AMERICA *in* CLASS®

from the National Humanities Center

Part I: Visual Analysis

What can we discover about these three works of art by just looking closely and making connections to prior knowledge?



Christian Friedrich Mayr (American, born Germany, 1803-1851)
Kitchen Ball at White Sulphur Springs, Virginia, 1838
North Carolina Museum of Art



Christian Friedrich Mayr (American, born Germany, 1803-1851)
Kitchen Ball at White Sulphur Springs, Virginia, 1838
North Carolina Museum of Art



Eastman Johnson (American, 1824-1906)
Old Kentucky Home (Negro Life at the South), 1859
New York Public Library



William Sidney Mount (American, 1807-1868)
The Power of Music, 1847
Cleveland Museum of Art

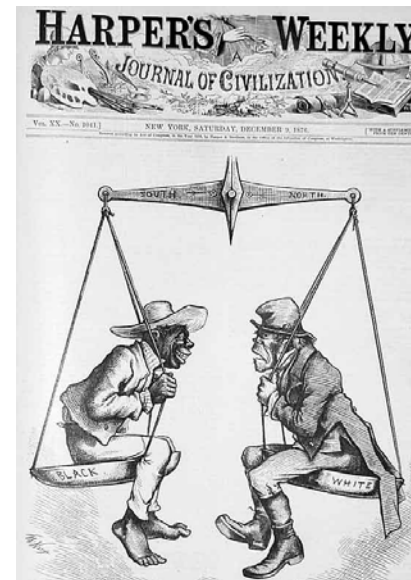


Charles Felix Blauvelt (American, 1824-1900)
A German Immigrant Inquiring His Way, 1855
North Carolina Museum of Art

Contemporary Cartoons



Charles Felix Blauvelt (American, 1824-1900)
A German Immigrant Inquiring His Way, 1855
North Carolina Museum of Art





Thomas Hart Benton (American, 1889-1975)
Spring on the Missouri, 1945
North Carolina Museum of Art



Thomas Hart Benton (American, 1889-1975)
Spring on the Missouri, 1945
North Carolina Museum of Art



Benton, Lithographs for
Kansas City Star, 1937

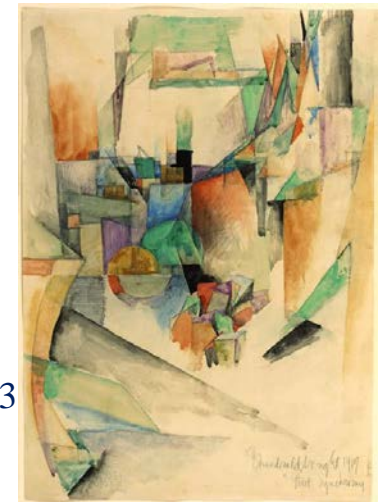
Contemporary Works of Art



Thomas Hart Benton (American, 1889-1975)
Spring on the Missouri, 1945
North Carolina Museum of Art



Grant Wood (American, 1891–1942)
Stone City, Iowa, 1930
Joslyn Museum of Art



Stanton McDonald-Wright American, 1890-1973
Street Synchrony, 1917
North Carolina Museum of Art

[Lessons](#)[Programs](#)[Works of Art](#)[Concept Maps](#)[start a concept map!](#)[LOG IN](#)
[portfolio](#)

Teach the *Big Picture:*

Art **Resources** + **Tools** to help you connect classrooms and invigorate learning

Works of Art

Discover 150 of the most teachable objects in the North Carolina Museum of Art collection.



Concepts

Which of these concepts do you teach? See how works of art relate across disciplines.



Part II: Historical Context

How does contextual information and interpretive analysis change how we view these works of art?

Lesson Plan: *Images of Immigration*



Written by Zoe Voigt, Humanities Teacher

Essential Question: *How is immigration depicted in American art during the 19th century?*

Abstract: Students will learn about impressions of immigration through readings, fine art, and political cartoons. They will learn about and present opposing views of immigration issues in a debate forum.

GRADE LEVEL

- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12

SUBJECT AREAS

- Social Studies

CONCEPTS

- change
- identity

Activities

Assessments

Resources

Background Info

Comments

1. Assign students to read a textbook description of the immigrant experience in the United States from 1850 to 1880.

2. Hold a brief class discussion analyzing and evaluating the immigrant experience from 1850 to 1880 based on the following questions:

- *Why did immigrants choose to leave their homelands and come to the United States in the second half of the 19th century?*
- *Why were Americans upset with the pattern of immigration during this time?*
- *How did these immigrants fare in their new homeland?*

Student Learning Objectives

Lesson Plan: *Defining Images of African American Slavery*



Written by Zoe Voigt, Humanities Teacher

Essential Question: *What can we learn about 19th-century ideas and culture by analyzing how white artists portrayed slavery?*

Abstract: Students will create their own illustration of slavery after analyzing and discussing other artistic representations of slavery.

GRADE LEVEL

9 10 11 12

SUBJECT AREAS

Social Studies

Visual Arts

CONCEPTS

Identity power

Activities

Assessments

Resources

Background Info

Comments

Student Learning Objectives

- Students will explore the ideas and culture that influenced white artists in their portrayal of African American slavery.

1. Provide each student with a copy of the attached [Image Analysis Chart](#). Have the class examine *Kitchen Ball at White Sulphur Springs, Virginia* and *Plantation Burial*. Encourage students to record their observations on the Image Analysis Charts.

2. Divide the class into pairs. Assign each pair of students to complete one Image Analysis Chart by combining their individual observations to create the best possible Image Analysis Chart. Allowing students to look at their Image Analysis Charts, hold a whole-class discussion focused on the following questions:

- *What are the similarities and differences in the paintings?*

Lesson Plan: Flood Control—Environmental History



Written by Zoe Voigt, Humanities Teacher

Essential Question: *How does Thomas Hart Benton’s painting help us understand the impact of flooding on the lives of midwesterners in the 20th century? What are some of the policy issues around flooding?*

Abstract: Students will learn about the history of flood control as well as flood control practices today. They will also experience the difficulty in deciding upon the best solutions for environmental policies in a debate format.

GRADE LEVEL

9 10 11 12

SUBJECT AREAS

Visual Arts

Social Studies

CONCEPTS

environment place

Activities

Assessments

Resources

Background Info

Comments

Student Learning Objectives

- Students will interpret visual and verbal descriptions of the Missouri Flood of 1937 and assess the impact this event had on midwesterners’ lives.

1. Assign the class to examine *Spring on the Missouri*.
2. Hold a brief class discussion focusing on the following themes:
 - Biographical details of the artist Thomas Hart Benton, specifically his role as a documentary artist.
 - Depiction of the Missouri River in the painting.
 - Association of the painting with the Flood of 1937.
3. Divide the class into three groups and assign each group an identity:
 - United States senators, farmers living in the flood plain, or environmental lobbyists.