



Internet

Art Reflects Cultures

In today's multicultural classrooms, students need to appreciate cultural likenesses as well as differences. Point out that while all cultures have their own unique artwork and art history, the art of many cultures may share a number of characteristics. In this lesson students use the Internet to investigate the artistry of different cultures. Students will then create pictures illustrating their own individual cultures and put them all together to form a cultural patchwork quilt.

Learning Goals

- Use the Internet to investigate the art of Mexicans, Native Americans, and Africans and compare and contrast the things they make and how they are used.
- Create pictures representing diverse cultural groups and work together to combine the art pieces into a patchwork quilt of classroom cultures.

Materials

- borrowed samples, or pictures of, a Chinese bowl, Mexican pottery, an African statue, a Native American blanket
- printouts of Egyptian coloring pages from the Internet
- crayons or markers •8" x 8" white construction paper squares
- paper punch
- colorful yarn

Warm-Up

- Show students the Mexican bowl and other art pieces and ask, "Have you ever seen pieces of art like these? Where?"
- Let students who have seen such pieces tell about their experiences, then point out that the bowl was made in China, the pottery in Mexico, the statue in Africa, and the blanket in America by North American Indians.
- Ask students what other art pieces they've seen or heard about that come from countries around the world.
- Help students understand that people everywhere have a history of art and that each culture's art is unique in some ways and alike in others.
- Add, "Today you'll go on the Internet to investigate the art of several different cultures or ethnic groups. Then each of you will draw a picture to represent your own cultural background."

Web Work

1. Open this site so students can see the art of Mexican native children.

The Art of Mexican Native Children

URL: <http://www.DocuWeb.ca/Mexico/1-engl/kids.html>

- Read the Mexican children's stories with the class. Explain any difficult words or expressions.
- Ask, "How does the children's art help us know a little about their culture?"
- Allow students to browse the site before moving on.

2. Access this Native American site for a look at both children's and adults' art.

Native American ArtPages MENU

URL: <http://indy4.fdl.cc.mn.us/~isk/art/art.html>

- Start students with the Young People's Pagesso they can see samples of young Native Americans' artwork.
- Check out the Manidominens: Sacred Seeds--Native American Beadworkand the sections about wampum belts and bandoliers. Students will learn a lot about American history here!
- Allow students to browse the site.

3. Explain to students that they'll fly across the sea to the continent of Africa, via the Internet. There, in the country of Egypt, they'll find art thousands of years old and find out about ancient Egyptians.

Color Me Egypt

URL: <http://interoz.com/egypt/kids/>

- Print out copies of the Egyptian art for students to color. Some students may wish to enter their colorings in the contest.
- Be sure to follow the link to the history of Egypt where you'll find other beautiful art pieces, including King Tut's golden mask.

4. Discuss the artwork students have seen that represents Mexico, Native Americans, and Egypt.

- Ask, "What, if anything, did you learn about people from Mexican, Native American, or Egyptian cultures by looking at their art?"
- Compare and contrast artwork from the different cultures. How are they alike? How are they different?

5. Ask students to think about their own cultural background. Help those who aren't sure by asking, "Where did your great-great-grandma come from? Do you know the name of the country?"

6. Explain that students will each draw a picture representing their own culture, and add, "Then the pictures will be laced together to create a beautiful classroom cultural quilt! It will show that we come from very different backgrounds, but we work and grow together!"

Wrap-Up

- Use the paper punch to make 3-4 holes along each side of the 8"x 8" white squares.
- Allow time for students to draw their pictures on the squares.
- Ask students to help put the quilt together by lacing the pictures with yarn.
- Hang the completed "quilt" on a bulletin board labeled Different . . . But So Alike and Likable!