

Handmade Heritage,

Art Class

Name _____

Room _____

Overview

This summer I took a journey to learn more about one aspect of my heritage – the place my grandfather’s family came from. While I was there I took pictures, wrote, and made art to capture what I was learning. Like they say:

To know where you are going, you must know where you came from.

For this unit, you will explore where you came from. Using poetry, journal writing, and art making you will collect and re-present part of your family story. I hope that by doing this project you will gain a greater appreciation of your heritage. Throughout the journey, we will stop and ask this Essential Question: What have you inherited from the past and how does it influence who you are today and who you are becoming? Buon Viaggio!

Objectives

- To use Writing and the Visual Arts to explore family heritage.
- To compare the thinking habits of a writer, artist and scientist.

“A really intelligent artist is a scholar first, a writer second, and maybe an artist 3rd or 4th.”
-Hung Lui

- To think critically about mainstream messages of “normal” and “ideal” families and where they come from.
- To understand the role of artists in critiquing dominant stories and creating diverse personal narratives about family.
- To understand the importance of inheritances from the Italian Renaissance (1400-1500s) and Harlem Renaissance (1930s-40s).

Let’s Get Started... Jot Down Notes About Your Family Heritage.

Ethnicity/ Religion	Family Names/ People	Places	Hobbies/ Jobs/ Passions

HERITAGE:

Something inherited from the past.

Give an example for each:

Natural Heritage -

Heredity -

Visual Heritage –

ACTIVITIES

1. Family Artifacts
Drawings
2. Design a Family Trophy
3. “Norms” and family structure (Analyzing Family on TV & in Contemporary Art)
4. Witness Game
5. I am From Poem
6. Handmade Paints

PROJECTS

You will create a handmade book to tell about 3 aspects of your heritage (people, places, stories, memories, etc.).

Traditions/ Foods/ Music	Key Events or Memories

Vocabulary

Heritage	Inheritance
Traits	Critique
Narrative	Dominant
Master Narrative	Norms
Stereotypes	Omissions
Diverse	Family

RESOURCES:

<http://artbookscreativity.org/multimedia> - From the National Museum of Women in the Arts, this website has several useful videos on bookmaking with students and generating ideas for narrative.

<http://www.mixed-media-artist.com/2007/02/polymer-medium-transfer-film-technique.html> - Steps on making different photo transfers

<http://curkovicartunits.pbworks.com/w/page/39771881/An%20Illustrated%20Life%20-%20Journaling> - Complete Unit on Making Visual Journals with Objectives, Slideshows, Student Work and Videos for drawing & painting techniques

<http://www.georgeallalyon.com/where.html> - Here you will find the poem "Where I am From.." with a template and video of the author reading it from MTV's production The United States of Poetry

<http://plainsart.org/learnonline/exhibits/show/david-bradley/powwowprincess> - Useful website for the Narrative/ Counter-Narrative Collage project

<http://www.readwritethink.org> - Go to Classroom Resources -> Student Interactives to find useful poem templates (Diamonte, Acrostic, etc.)

www.fundforteachers.org/ - Start dreaming now and apply by Jan. 31st for \$5,000 (individual) and \$10,000 (team) towards a self-designed fellowship!

WORKS CITED:

hooks, bell. *Teaching to Transgress, Education as the Practice of Freedom*. New York: Routledge, 1994.

Peterson, Bob. "Teaching for Social Justice: One Teacher's Journey" *Rethinking Our Classrooms: Teaching for Equity and Justice*, Vol. 1 New Edition. Ed. Wayne Au, Bill Bigelow, Stan Karp. Milwaukee: Rethinking Schools, 2007. 28-34.

Zander, Mary Jane. "Tell Me a Story: The Power of Narrative in the Practice of Teaching Art." *Studies in Art Education*. Volume 48 Number 2 (2007).

Storybooks

Stella Luna by Janell Cannon

Tree of Courage by Ryusuke Salto

All Families are Special by Norma Simon

The Family Book by Todd Parr

Mama, Mommy, and Me by Leslea Newman

by Delaney Susie dgsusie@cps.edu