

Children's Crusade Cityscape

Lesson Overview

In this art lesson on drawing cityscapes, students learn about Birmingham's 1963 Children's Crusade. Through picture books, first-person stories of people who lived in Birmingham during the time of the Children's Crusade (primary sources), and inspirational music reflecting the time, students will connect the visual arts to historical civil rights events and their own cultures, and will express their own life experiences. Designed for grades 2-5; adaptable for middle school. Lisa Holland created and piloted this lesson for the students in her art classes at Shades Cahaba Elementary School, Homewood, Alabama, through a project implemented by Kids in Birmingham 1963.

Alabama State Standards

Social Studies

SS.5.12 Outline key events and campaigns of the Civil Rights Movement and identify significant organizations and their contributions within the Movement.

SS.5.12a Describe ways in which the Civil Rights Movement sought to create change.

SS.5.12b Trace the chronology of civil rights events in Alabama and across the nation, and summarize how they impacted one another

SS.5.12c Describe the contributions of Alabama leaders and foot soldiers of the Civil Rights Movement as well as other Alabamian supporters who aided their efforts

SS.5.12d Summarize how opponents of the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama sought to limit its success.

Visual Arts

AE.VA.2.2 Explore personal interests and curiosities with a range of art materials.

AE.VA.2.2a Create two-dimensional art.

AE.VA.2.14 Create works of art about events in home, school, or community life.

AE.VA.4.14 Create works of art that reflect community and/or cultural traditions.

Notes

- The objective of this lesson is for students to connect the visual arts lesson to their own lives/cultures and express their own life experiences by identifying and illustrating events critical to the community.
- This lesson is designed to cover subject areas of Art, Music, and Alabama History for grades 2-5. It can be taught as one 30-45 minute lesson, or two 20 minute lessons.

- Required materials are pencil, paper, handout, slideshow, and *The Youngest Marcher* by Cynthia Levinson. Optional materials include dice, crayons, and other chosen supplies.

Lesson Plan

Before Lesson

Materials needed: *The Youngest Marcher* by Cynthia Levinson, KWL chart (optional)

1. The teacher will identify prior knowledge about the events in Birmingham, Alabama on May 2nd 1963 including addressing any misconceptions and questions to be explored throughout the lesson.

During Lesson

Above the Black Line

Materials Needed: slideshow, handout, paper, pencil

1. Students and teachers will read/listen to 4 or more accounts from the Kids in Birmingham 1963 website. Four suggested excerpts have been included in the attached slideshow presentation.
2. The teacher then guides students in the directed drawing using lines and simple shapes, creating first the signs in the foreground at the bottom of their paper. "Follow the same formula for each of your signs, don't worry about what will go on your signs until the end!"
3. Next teacher guides students to draw buildings in the background behind and above their signs using overlapping and a variety of building sizes. "Now let's make the buildings! Each building can be different and should be behind your signs. try to make many different sizes and types"
4. Once the cityscape (signs and buildings without details yet) is complete gather students to review the rest of the lesson, directions, expectations and materials needed.

Below the Black Line

Materials needed: slideshow, sharpie (optional), markers or colored pencils (optional)

5. Students will listen to the soundtrack provided in the attached slideshow while they choose the windows, symbols, messages and more to complete their cityscape.
6. Optional: the dice provides comfort to those that struggle making decisions however is not necessary to complete the lesson
7. Optional: tracing with sharpie and adding color with markers or colored pencils

After Lesson

Materials needed: *The Youngest Marcher* by Cynthia Levinson, paper, pencil

1. Discussion, share or finish reading the picture book *The Youngest Marcher*.
2. Clarify any misconceptions
3. Journal Reflection - "Would you March; Why and why not?"

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