

ELA Lesson Plan focusing on Artists and Composers

Standards: Music/Visual Arts Intermediate Standard III & IV and ELA I & II

Performance Indicators for Students:

- Through listening, analyze and evaluate their own and others' performances, improvisations, and compositions by identifying and comparing them with similar works and events. (Standard IIIa)
- Identify from a performance or recording the titles and composers of well-known examples of classical concert music and blues/jazz selections. (Standard IVa)
- Compare the ways ideas and concepts are communicated through visual art with the various ways that those ideas and concepts are manifested in other art forms (Standard IIIc)
- Demonstrate how art works and artifacts from diverse world cultures reflect aspects of those cultures (Standard IVa)
- Use language for information and understanding in reading, writing, listening, and speaking by:
 1. Collecting facts, dates, and ideas
 2. Discovering relationships, concepts, and generalizations and
 3. Using knowledge generated from oral, written, and electronically produced texts.
- Use language for literary response and expression in reading, writing, listening, and speaking by:
 1. Relating texts and performances to their own lives
 2. Creating texts, and
 3. Developing an understanding of the diverse social, historical and cultural dimensions the texts and performances represent.

Objectives:

- Write a short biography of one of the composers and one of the companion artists whose music and artwork will be played/exhibited at the RPO Intermediate Concert. The biography is based upon research done at the library or on the Internet.

Materials:

- Research materials
- Array of books about composers and artists
- Paper/pencil
- Art materials
- RPO preparatory cd
- Pictures of composers/visual artists

Prior Knowledge:

- Students demonstrate appropriate audience behavior, including attentive listening, in a variety of musical settings in and out of school.
- Familiarity with listening repertoire through experiencing previous lesson plans.

Composer	Companion Artist
Modest Mussorgsky	Viktor Hartmann (1834-1873)
Claude Debussy	Claude Monet (1840-1926)
Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky	Eugène Delacroix (1798-1863)
Johann Sebastian Bach	Egid Quirin Asam (sculptor) (1692-1750)
Franz Schubert	Jacques-Louis David (1748-1825)
Ferde Grofé	Frederick Remington (1861-1909)
Arnold Schoenberg	Wassily Kandinsky (1866-1944)
Bedrich Smetana	Caspar David Fredrich (1774-1840)

Procedures:

- Students select a composer and a companion artist from the list above.
- Write a brief biography of the composer and the artist that will include dates of birth and death (minimum of three paragraphs)
- Include at least two works composed or painted by the composer or artist
- Give a brief background about how one of those compositions or paintings came to be composed or painted
- If there are commonalities in the background, point those out. (e.g. both artists are French, both lived during the same period of time, etc.)
- Explain why the composer/artist was chosen by the student and why the student appreciates (or does not appreciate) the type of music and type of paintings completed by the selected composer/artist.

Indicators of Success:

- Students write a paper at least three paragraphs long.
- The paper will be based upon the research of a composer and an artist.
- The paper will be written neatly with correct spelling and punctuation in the format outlined by the teacher.

Follow-up:

- Students may read papers to the rest of the class
- Play other music by their chosen composer or show other works painted by the artist
- Draw a picture using the style developed by the artist
- Compose a piece of music using the style developed by the composer.

Other Activities:

Students compare and contrast the lives of composers, noting the country they were from, size of family, how successful they were in their lives and other jobs they may have had before dedicating their lives to composition.

 **Link Up!**

www.askart.com OR www.artcyclopedia.com

(Please look at the website before allowing students to view. You may find some pictures inappropriate.)