

Art Links Integrated Curriculum Unit 2003-2004

Artist Cindy Matyi
McKinley Elementary
Grades 7&8

Academic and Classroom Goals: Working with a combined 7th and 8th grade group, we will be using the myths, cultural habits, art and music of Celtic, early American immigrants and Appalachian people to gain perspective on timelines and historical eras.

The students will be encouraged to develop skills in evaluating art through visits to the Carnegie center, learn more art history, drawing skills which border on mathematics (geometry) by designing Celtic knots, learn music appreciation especially related to historical periods and folk music.

Overview:

How Can The Arts Expand The World View of 7th and 8th Graders at McKinley?

Brief Step-by-Step Art Integrated Activities Including Date/Goals:

#1 July 13 : Planning Meeting with Carolyn Powers, 7th & 8th Grade Teacher
"What is the best way to use Celtic Art and Music to stimulate learning about ancient world cultures with 7th 8th graders?"

#2 Sept 20 : Planning Meeting at McKinley with Carolyn Powers, follow up meeting with music teacher

Do we have a plan which will work well for both the teachers, students and the artist?

#3 Sept 29 : Planning Meeting to Finalize the Curriculum at McKinley
"Have we developed a well-balanced program which works with the curriculum?"

#4 Oct 5 : Field Trip to See Imagine Cincinnati Exhibit at Carnegie Center and Vote on Best of Show

Why do you think so many artists wanted to enter this contest and what do you think your vote will mean to them?

#5 Oct 19 : Totem Animals and Name Tags
What Animal Do I Identify With?

#6 Nov 9 : Scenes from Ancient Celtic Life - Who were the other people living in Europe at the time of the ancient Greeks and Romans and why are they important to us?

#7 Nov 23: Myths and Mythmaking (make Christmas ornaments using circular and spiral designs on mylar sheets, cooked in a toaster oven)
Why was the Circle Sacred to the Ancient Celts?

#8 Dec 7 : Celtic Holiday Songs (also finish mandala Christmas ornaments) - What are some of the holiday traditions which we have inherited from ancient Celtic and European people?

#9 Jan 11: The Concertina (the instrument will be demonstrated, dismantled and discussed) - What is it about the Concertina that I like or don't like?

#10 Jan 25: Interconnectiveness--Early People and Their Relationship with Nature (we will be designing Celtic knots) - How does the ancient Celtic philosophy of connection with all of creation differ from our approach today?

#11 Feb 8 : Ancient Standing Stones (constructing Standing Stones with floral foam and fake stone spray) - What do we have in our culture that resembles the standing stones of ancient people?

#12 Feb 22: The Story of Cuchulainn -- a Re-enactment

#13 March 22 or 24: Celtic Music Presentation - What do I feel when I listen to this music?

#14 April 5: Field Trip to visit Stephen Foster statue in Alms Park
How did the songs of Stephen Foster shape the soul of America?

#15 April 19: Rubbings of Celtic Knot in the Gym - Why is it

important for us to take something artistic with us from McKinley to the new school?

#16 May 10: Celtic Knot Panels from the McKinley Gym Knot finished (we hope to work with the decorators from the new school to see if there is a place to use the wooden panels we paint with the gymnasium knot) - How are Childhood and Adulthood connected?

#17 May 24: Complete Projects and Wrap Up - Was this program beneficial to our students?

Extended Activity Designed by Teaching Artist -- Taught by Classroom Teacher: The teacher will be given a follow up assignment or a preparatory assignment for each session. The curriculum unit form has actually been used by the artist for each session so the teacher now has a copy in preparation for each visit with these preparation and follow-up assignments ready.

Field Research from Sources Outside the School:
The artist has a large library of books, recordings, slides and sheet music to draw from as well as community resources. The Carnegie Center and Riley School of Irish Music are also resources.

Assessment Used for This Unit

Reflections from Teaching Artist, Teachers, Students and Parents:
Carolyn Powers, 7th&8th grade teacher will be the primary contact at McKinley along with Sandra Rhein the music teacher and Melody Dacey the principal. Through them, the artist will gain insight into how the program is helping the students. The artist will also work with Melanie Bates at the Carnegie Center to encourage participation in their Friday afternoon after school program.

Completed by: Cindy Matyi, artist