

iCONN Learning Activity

Famous Artists

Level: Elementary

Task: Students research a famous artist from a list supplied by the teacher. Each student must give a brief oral report on the life of the artist and his/her style, what makes that artist unique. Students create their own work of art, imitating the style of the artist selected.

Research Question: What elements of an artist's style make his/her work unique?

Content Area(s): Art

State Content Standard(s):

Visual Arts

Standard 5. Students will reflect upon, describe, analyze, interpret and evaluate their own and others' work.

iCONN Database(s): *InfoTrac Junior Edition, Kids InfoBits, Discovering Collection*

Search Strategy:

1. Go to www.iconn.org
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on "Select iCONN resources"
3. Open *InfoTrac Junior Edition*
4. Enter the *name of the artist* in the search box
5. Click *Find*
6. Click on *View* next to the various *types of resources* (e.g., *Encyclopedia excerpt* or *Periodical references*)
7. Click on *Check Out* to read an article

Alternate Search Strategy:

1. Go to www.iconn.org
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on "Select iCONN resources"
3. Open *Kids InfoBits*
4. Click on *Arts and Entertainment*
5. Click on *Famous Artists*
6. Click on the *name of your artist*
7. The results list contains *Reference* resources (Note: the *camera icon* indicates the resource contains a picture)
8. Click on *highlighted tabs* to view different *types of resources* (e.g., *Magazines* or *Images*)
9. Click on a *title* to open an article

Adaptations for Differentiated Learning:

Search Strategy:

1. Go to www.iconn.org
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on “Select iCONN resources”
3. Open *Discovering Collection*
4. Enter the *name of your artist* in the Basic Search box
5. Click *SEARCH*
Note: You may have to choose between 2 similar names in order to pull up the results list.
6. The results list contains a variety of documents – you can use the Subject Terms guide on the left to narrow down your search if needed.
(The *type of resource* is given to the right of the citation and the *reading level* to the left.)
7. Click on the title of the entry to read the article
8. Note the *Table of Contents* at the top of the article, when you open it up. Click on *View Multimedia File(s)* to see a picture of the artist and examples of his/her work

Students who have difficulty using *Kids InfoBits* or *Discovering Collection* are given personal assistance.

Updated by Gale Cengage, July 2008