

Common Core Lesson: Exploring Art Careers

Grade Level: 4th - 8th grade

Subject: Career Exploration, Visual Arts

Objective: Students will be able to identify and describe different art careers, understand the responsibilities and skills required for each career, explore the connections between art and various professions, and reflect on their own interests and skills related to art.

Common Core Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.1: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information clearly.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.7.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 7 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Materials:

Career descriptions (printed or displayed digitally from magazines)

Chart paper or whiteboard

Writing materials

Art supplies (optional)

Procedure:

Introduction (10 minutes)

Begin by asking students about their favorite art forms and if they have ever thought about art as a career. Ask what they think an art career is or can be.

Explain that there are various art careers that people can pursue, and today they will explore and learn about some of these careers.

Career Exploration (20 minutes)

Provide students with career descriptions for each of the art careers mentioned (fine artist, art teacher, graphic designer, art therapist, movie director, character artist, curator).

Have students read the descriptions individually or in pairs and highlight key details and responsibilities of each career.

Facilitate a class discussion, asking students to share what they have learned from the descriptions and any questions they may have.

Connections and Reflection (20 minutes)

Create a chart on the board or chart paper with the art careers listed.

Ask students to think about other professions or fields that might have connections to each art career.

Have students share their ideas and discuss as a class, exploring how art skills and creativity can be valuable in various professions.

Personal Reflection (15 minutes)

Provide writing materials and ask students to reflect on their own interests and skills related to art.

Have students write a short paragraph or create a mind map describing their favorite art forms, their artistic strengths, and any career paths they might be interested in pursuing.

Optional Art Activity (20 minutes)

If time allows and art supplies are available, allow students to engage in an art activity related to one of the discussed art careers.

For example, students could create a movie poster as a graphic designer, design a character as a character artist, or curate a small art exhibition with their own artwork.

Sharing and Discussion (10 minutes)

Invite students to share their reflections or completed art activities with the class.

Facilitate a supportive discussion where students can ask questions, offer feedback, and express their thoughts about the various art careers.

Resources:

Book: "Art That Moves: Animation Around the World" by Nancy Johnson and Katherine Lo - This book introduces students to the world of animation and the diverse careers within the animation industry. It explores the responsibilities and skills required for various roles in animation, from animators to storyboard artists. It also highlights how art plays a crucial role in creating animated films.

Book: "You Can Be a Fashion Designer" by Nancy Holyoke - Focused on the fashion industry, this book helps students understand the different art careers involved in fashion design. It covers roles like fashion designer, illustrator, stylist, and more. It provides insights into the responsibilities and skills required for each profession and encourages students to explore their interests in fashion and art.

Book: "Art: The Definitive Visual Guide" by DK - While not specific to art careers, this comprehensive book covers various art forms and their connections to different professions. It can be used to show students how art extends beyond traditional careers and plays a role in fields like architecture, advertising, and technology. It encourages students to reflect on their own interests and how art can be integrated into various career paths.

Extensions:

Invite guest speakers, such as professionals working in the mentioned art careers, to share their experiences and answer students' questions. Email

hello@cultivategrandrapids.org for recommendations or guidance, if desired.

Research and discuss famous individuals who have made significant contributions to the discussed art careers.

Organize a field trip to an art gallery, museum, or a local art event to provide students with firsthand experiences related to the discussed art careers.

Note: The lesson duration can be adjusted based on the depth of discussions and the inclusion of the optional art activity.