

Grade Level / Course Summary with Big Ideas:

In third grade learners are examining how art and artists have influenced culture in America and around the world. Starting with the caves of Lascaux, learners will find examples of visual arts' influence through ancient art history forward to contemporary times. Throughout this curriculum learners will examine historical events, various mediums and artists that have sparked change in the art world, or nationally/globally. The national arts standards and Pennsylvania Standards for the Arts and Humanities will be addressed in each unit of study.

Big Ideas:

Art and Action

How have artists used their work to impact cultures and society?

Grade Level Modules (Units):

Suggested Timeline
of Weeks or # of Class Periods/Lessons

1. Art and Communication- 5 weeks

In this first unit learners will begin to see how art was first used as a means of communication before written language. Learners will examine the caves of Lascaux and recognize their significance. Learners will then create their own original cave drawing. Learners will then learn about hieroglyphics and be able to compare these to the symbols found in the caves of Lascaux. Learners will then examine contemporary examples of visual communication and create their own original work.

2. Visual Culture/Film making- 10 weeks

Visual Culture refers to visual advertisements in print and commercial form. Learners will examine how graphic design in advertising can influence consumer culture and be challenged to create their own examples of visual culture. Within this unit learners will study pop art and then create their own stop motion films inspired by this movement.

3. Murals- 4 weeks

Murals have been an art movement that activists and community groups striving for change have used for decades. Learners will be introduced to the history of murals and challenged to create a mural that encourages positive school culture to be displayed around the building.

4. Art and the Environment- 5 weeks

In this unit learners will examine artists and their influence on the environment. Throughout this unit learners will look at artists who advocate for positive environmental change or use recycled and repurposed materials in their work.

Learning Activities/Modes of Formative and Summative Assessment:

- Sketch books
- Collaborative group work
- Projects
- Displaying work
- Inquiry based large group instruction
- Small group instruction
- Checklists

Primary Instructional Resources:

- NAEA art journal
- Art of Education
- appropriate computer and Internet resources
- posters of class content and artists displayed during instruction.