

# Frederic Remington and Characters of the Wild West

## Grades 6-12

Remington was a master artist proficient in drawing, sketching, painting and sculpture. He enjoyed depicting many subjects in his art work including characters of the Wild West. For our project, students will be exposed to Remington's work and be taught some skills on how to create Western characters in a fitting landscape, each leaving with a Western themed composition.

### Lesson Overview



The grade level this lesson is designed for is 6-12 and the subject is art. The length of the lesson will be 40 minutes. This lesson will be considered a meaningful use task (M.U.T.) in a class that revolves around Frederic Remington and his triumphs as an artist.

For the course offered, students will view a Power Point presentation about Remington and his life, view his artworks first hand at the Frederic Remington Art Museum, and create the M.U.T.

### Essential Question(s)

- Who was Frederic Remington?
- How did he make a living?
- What mediums did he like to work in?
- What subjects did he enjoy interpreting in his work?

### Objectives

By the end of this lesson, the students will be able to:

- Tell the instructor who Remington was and what he did for a living
- Tell the instructor what types of artwork Remington made
- Create a Western character using collage techniques and magazines

## **NY Curriculum Standards**

- NY.ART.K-12.1 Students will actively engage in the processes that constitute creation and performance in the arts (dance, music, theatre, and visual arts) and participate in various roles in the arts
- NY.ART.K-12.2 Students will be knowledgeable about and make use of the materials and resources available for participation in the arts in various roles.
- NY.ART.K-12.3 Students will respond critically to a variety of works in the arts, connecting the individual work to other works and to other aspects of human endeavor and thought

## **Anticipatory Set- Description of the Lesson Launch activity**

Students will arrive at Kid's Place and be verbally led into the lesson. For the launch, students will be shown a Power Point presentation. Power Point will include:

- A Power Point with a history of the life and times of Frederic Remington
- Pictures of some of his art works depicting characters of the Western theme
- Guided practice steps on how to layout the composition

## **Description of how objectives will be communicated to students**

This will be done using the Power Point presentation. Students will see Remington's work and be led in a discussion about how he created his pieces. The next few slides of the presentation will be devoted to creating the composition. After we travel to the Museum to see Remington's work firsthand, we will head back to the classroom and begin our pieces, using the presentation to guide us.

## **Description of the relevance of the learning**

By combining the information provided in the Power Point with a field trip to the Museum to see original art works, the group now has the foundational knowledge to create a M.U.T.

The connection should be brought to their attention that there were and are very famous artists that are from the same area that they themselves are from and are currently living in. Coming from an underprivileged area, this realization may open these student's eyes to a bigger and brighter world and future waiting for them beyond our area.

## **Connection to standards**

NY.ART.K-12.1- Students will engage in the process of art work creation through completing their M.U.T.

NY.ART.K-12.2- Students will become aware of sculpting materials through the M.U.T.

NY.ART.K-12.3- Students will respond critically to a variety of works when they view Rosseel's work in the Power Point and in person. They will connect the individual work to other works when they compare his paintings side by side. They will connect other aspects of Rosseel's human endeavor and thought to their aspects of them when they embark to create an artwork based on Rosseel's artwork.

## **Introduce New Information & New Concepts**

The students will learn declarative and procedural knowledge in this lesson.

**Declarative Knowledge-** Factual knowledge that they will learn

- Where Remington was from
- What he did for a living
- What his chosen subject matter was

**Procedural Knowledge-** How-to knowledge that the students will learn

- How to examine original art work
- How to infer meaning from an artwork
- How to create a successful composition using the techniques learned in the class

## **Guided Practice**

- The objectives will have been communicated through the Power Point presentation
- Students will be given Western style magazines to look through and asked to tear out images of characters that appeal to them
- Once they have some characters and theme for a realistic theme, with all pieces in proportion to each other, we will begin to cut around the figures
- The background for their scene needs to be prepped by using a technique of rubbing crayon on their paper, which has been placed on sandpaper to add texture
- If the figures are cut around accurately, the students can apply glue and add them to paper

## **Assessments**

The successful completion of the M.U.T. will assess understanding of the art lesson. By asking students the essential questions and hearing answers, assessment of learning for the entire class will be complete.

## **Closure**

For a closure, students will be reminded of the wide, wonderful world that waits for them beyond the borders of our small city and state. They will also be reminded of how proud they should feel when thinking of the talented artist from our small area.

## **Materials Needed**

- Power Point presentation
- Sand paper
- Crayons
- Markers
- Pencils
- Magazines
- Glue

## Supplies Needed

**Characters of the Wild West lesson:** Remington was a master artist proficient in drawing, sketching, painting and sculpture. He enjoyed depicting many subjects in his art work including characters of the Wild West. For our project, students will be exposed to Remington's work and be taught some skills on how to create Western characters in a fitting landscape, each leaving with a Western themed composition.

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\*No supplies needed. The Museum will provide the supplies for this lesson.

## Frederic Remington and Characters of the Wild West

Frederic Remington (1861-1909) is undoubtedly a very famous artist who specialized in creating artwork based on the western theme. He was born in Canton NY, the year the Civil War began. His father was absent for about the first four years of Frederic's life as he was fighting for the north. When young Remington was around 11 years old, the family moved to Ogdensburg and lived on Washington Street, not far from the Parish Mansion. Remington was expected to be a soldier like his dad, and was sent to military academy when he was 16. Upon graduation, he entered college at Yale in the fine arts program. His father suddenly passed when he was 19 from tuberculosis, and as Frederic was an only child who was very close with his dad, he was deeply saddened. He discontinued his studies at Yale after just three semesters. Shortly after he received an inheritance from his father's estate, and decided to travel.



Young Remington lived during a time when the country was just being settled out west and he was very interested in seeing what was happening in the country. With just three semesters of training as an artist he began to find work as an artist/illustrator with magazine companies, working primarily for the same newspapers and magazines for most of his career, giving himself a household name. He traveled extensively with the American military making sketches for the paintings and illustrations he would create when he went home to work in his studio.

In his mid twenties, he met and married Eva Caten, from Gloversville NY. She sometimes travelled with him, but mostly stayed in NYC where they had an apartment, or later at their home in New Rochelle, NY. The two also had a summer home on an island they owned in Chippewa Bay of the St. Lawrence River, located between Morristown and Alexandria Bay, NY.

He was interested in illustrating and telling a story in his work using the pictures he created. Not all of his work depicts an actual event, but characters he portrayed often seemed to breathe life. Many of his works revolve around the western theme, depicting cowboys and Native Americans, usually communicating, some even in the midst of a battle. In the flat surfaces of his paintings, real life events take shape in your mind; stories with a beginning, a middle and an end. He also loved horses and many of his pieces include them. When he was 35 he began sculpting with no training, and became a leader in the sculpture world, creating pieces that pushed the boundaries of what had ever been done before. He created 22 subjects in clay that were cast into bronze.



*The Apaches are Coming! Ca 1885*

*Untitled, A.K.A. Around the Campfire, ca 1908-1909*

Frederic and Eva had no children of their own. They finally built their dream home in Ridgefield, Connecticut, so Remington could be near painters who were practicing the Impressionist movement taking place in the early 1900's. Shortly after moving in to their home, Remington suddenly passed away from a burst appendix in December of that year. In Frederic Remington's short lifetime, he was able to create over 3,000 signed flatworks and the 22 subjects in clay that were cast into bronze, which is an incredible feat. Also, 8 books of his compiled stories and illustrations were completed.

