

HETZELL, PAM

LESSON OBJECTIVE(S):

- Students will analyze or explain how diverse cultures and time periods are reflected in visual arts
- Students will be exposed to the biography and works of three inspirational painters of Early America: Thomas Cole, George Catlin, and John James Audubon.
- Students will produce their own artistic interpretation of famous artworks, employing elements of art.

MATERIALS:

1. Thomas Cole, *View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm—The Oxbow*, 1836 (5A)
2. Thomas Cole and others, *State Capitol, Columbus, Ohio*, 1838-1861 (7A)
3. George Catlin, *Catlin Painting the Portrait of Mah-to-toh-pa—Mandan*, 1861-1869 (6B)
4. John James Audubon, *American Flamingo*, 1838 (6A)
5. PowerPoint Presentation
6. Art Materials (watercolor paint, paintbrushes, paper, and markers)

Time:

- five class periods

PROCEDURES:

1. Days 1 and 2: With the aid of the PowerPoint presentation, provide students with biographical and occupational information about John James Audubon (1785-1851), George Catlin (1796-1872) and Thomas Cole (1801-1848). Provide examples of their works and, in some cases, details about the subjects in/of the paintings.
2. Day 3: Use the STW (See, Think, Wonder) guides provided by Freda Klotter to guide student interpretation of *The Oxbow*.
3. Days 4 and 5: Students will complete watercolor painted interpretations of Thomas Cole's *The Oxbow*. For those students with no access to watercolor paint, draw with markers and then use a wet paintbrush to brush over the work for a similar watercolor effect.

Assessment:

- Student work was evaluated in terms of participation, neatness, and completion.