

MOORE, REBECCA

LESSON OBJECTIVE(S):

- Students will weave a basket by hand (similar to the Native American Indian baskets) and describe its functionality or usefulness.

MATERIALS:

1. Various Artists, *Pottery and Baskets*, c. 1100—c. 1960, (1A)
2. 24 Cardboard Templates
3. Rolls of various colors of raffia, corn husks
4. Glue, Markers to write their names on bottom
5. Various added embellishments like feathers, bone, shells, natural tall grasses, etc.

PROCEDURES:

1. Begin the lesson by asking students what “Necessity is the mother of invention” means. Explain how early Americans needed to make by hand the simple necessary things in their lives to...
 - a. Carry objects
 - b. To cook with
 - c. To cut, chop with
 - d. To wear
 - e. To eat or drink with
 - f. To move objects
 - g. For food gathering, storage, preparation
2. After discussion, show students the “Picturing America” artwork and give students the option to explore the following websites about Native American baskets:
 - a. www.burkemuseum.org/static/baskets/teachersguideforbasketry.html.
 - b. www.support-native-american-art.com/Native-American-Indian-Baskets.html.
 - c. www.nativetech.org/basketry/index.html
3. Use the following guided questions to encourage more discussion about Native American art:
 - a. What do you know about these Native America baskets and pottery examples?
 - b. Describe the baskets using your knowledge of the elements of art terminology. (line, shape, color, form, texture)

- c. What natural materials did the people have readily available to them for to use in making the functional objects they needed?
4. Students will each weave their own baskets with materials listed above.

Assessment:

- Did student complete project in the time allotted?
- Can student explain a pattern or symbol weaved into their basket? What might the symbol mean to the artist?
- Can student describe a purpose of Native American Baskets, agriculturally and economically? What could your basket be used for?
- What are the similarity and differences between your basket and the Native American Baskets?
- Do you think you were successful in creating a utilitarian art piece? Why or Why not?