

Lessons Through Art

Georgia O'Keeffe The World Around Us



Provided by the Education Department of the Museum of Texas Tech University
Authored by: Casey J. Seger
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Emphasis of Presentation

- **Study Focus:** Georgia O'Keeffe
- **Title of Lesson Plan:** The World Around Us
- **Grade Level:** Grades 3-5

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)

- Fine Arts
 - 117.11, 14, 17
 - Response and Evaluation
 - Perception
 - Creative Expression and Performance
- Science
 - 112. 14, 15, 16
 - Earth and Space
- English Language Arts and Writing Skills
 - 110. 14, 15, 16
 - Writing/Literary Skills
 - Oral and Written Conventions
 - Listening and Speaking

The World Around Us

Methods of Evaluation

- Class participation and discussion
- Student's landform model
- Presentation of student's work
- Student's writing

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Learning Objectives

- Students will learn to identify different landforms that appear on Earth.
- Students will explain several weathering processes.
- Students will learn the difference between 2 dimensions and 3 dimensions.
- Students will learn how landforms and landscapes influence artists such as Georgia O'Keeffe.
- Students will describe the painting *Red Hills Series II*.

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Time Required

- Two periods for 45-60 minutes each.
 - One for artist presentation, discussion, and writing
 - One for model presentations with drawings and labels
- Class size: 15-20 students
 - If class size is over 20 students, the lesson can be modified to work with groups instead of individuals.

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Materials Needed

- Presentation about Georgia O’Keeffe (Included in this PowerPoint).
- Image of *Red Hills Series II* (Included in this PowerPoint).
- Notebook
- Pen or Pencil
- Cardboard flats
 - Search online for suppliers of cardboard flats, or check with local grocery or convenience stores)
- Modeling clay in a variety of colors
- Markers, crayons, colored pencils
- Glue Stick
- Clear Scotch tape
- Scissors
- Craft Paint

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Lesson Description

- Begin with the presentation about Georgia O'Keeffe.
- After presentation, use image of *Red Hills Series II* to begin lesson. Ask students to write a paragraph about their reaction to the painting:
 - What do you think is the subject of this painting?
 - How big to you think the painting is?
 - Are you meant to view the painting from far away or close up?
 - Do you think the artist painted this while looking at the subject, or recalled the image from memory and then painted the picture?
 - What time of the day does Georgia O'Keeffe portray in this painting?

The World Around Us: Lesson Description

- After the students have written their paragraph gather them for a discussion on the subject matter of the painting using their thoughts and ideas.
- Discuss what the subject might be and have them reinforce their suggestions with their own views and opinions.
- Move the conversation towards the topic of Georgia O’Keeffe using the surrounding landscape in which she lived as inspiration, and discuss how landscape and nature can have an impact on artists.
 - Also ask questions of the students about what geological processes may have shaped the landscape O’Keeffe worked in during her lifetime.
 - Discuss the methods by which landforms can be eroded or weathered.
- Ask students to select a geographic site with many different landforms and draw a picture of that area.
 - Make sure that there are no duplicates in the sites.
 - Suggest to students that they may also make up their own geographic site.

The World Around Us

Lesson Description (cont.)

- Next, have students transform their 2-dimensional drawing into a 3-dimensional model with the modeling clay inside the cardboard flat.
- As part of the project, the students need to label different landforms that are present in their landscapes.
 - Lakes, streams, rivers, mesas, hills, mountains, deserts, etc.
- Finally, have students present their models to the class and discuss with each other the differences and similarities of the landforms that can be found on Earth.

Example of Cardboard Flat 3D Model



Background Information

- Georgia O'Keeffe was an artist who moved to New Mexico from New York after the death of her husband, Alfred Stieglitz, a legendary gallery owner and photographer. After moving to New Mexico, O'Keeffe focused on sweeping vistas and stark landscapes for her inspiration. By focusing on these rich aspects of the landscape, O'Keeffe captured a unique view of northern New Mexico. O'Keeffe practiced her art in the New Mexican desert for many years until her health began to decline. In the early 1970's, O'Keeffe's eyesight began to deteriorate due to macular-degeneration; however, she continued to paint until about one year before her death. O'Keeffe moved to Santa Fe in 1984 where she later died on March 6, 1986.



Georgia O'Keeffe

Presentation for Students

Georgia O'Keeffe

1887-1986



Georgia O'Keeffe while at the
University of Virginia, circa 1915

Georgia O'Keeffe

- Born November 15, 1887 in Wisconsin
- Dies March 6, 1986 at age 98
- Fall of 1905
 - Attends School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Art Students League (New York)
- 1912-14
 - Teaches in the Amarillo, TX public schools

Georgia O'Keeffe

- 1915
 - Teaches at Columbia College, Columbia, South Carolina
 - While teaching at the college, O'Keeffe compiles a set of drawings which Alfred Stieglitz sees during a visit.
- 1916
 - Teaches at the new West Texas A&M University in Canyon
 - Travels to Palo Duro Canyon to use the landforms in her works
- 1924
 - Marries Alfred Stieglitz

Georgia O'Keeffe

- 1929
 - Begins traveling more to New Mexico from New York to continue painting.
- 1984
 - Suffering from bad eyesight, O'Keeffe retires from painting
- 1986
 - O'Keeffe dies in Santa Fe
- O'Keeffe feels a connection to her surroundings and thus they influence her artwork greatly.
- Mediums that O'Keeffe uses include watercolors, oils, and charcoal sketches.



Georgia O'Keeffe
Red Hills Series II, 1935/ 1938
Oil on canvas (25.5 x 30 inches)
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Lott
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Bibliographic Materials

- Georgia O'Keeffe Museum
 - <http://www.okeeffemuseum.org/about-georgia-okeeffe.html>
- Georgia O'Keeffe
 - <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/georgia-okeeffe/about-the-painter/55/>
- Georgia O'Keeffe in New Mexico: Architecture, Katsinam, and the Land
 - <http://www.denverartmuseum.org/exhibitions/georgia-okeeffe-new-mexico>