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Katsushika Hokusai, Japanese printmaker and artist

1. Overview

Artist, printmaker, and teacher Barbara Mason discusses the life and artwork of Katsushika Hokusai, the Japanese-born artist and printmaker. Hokusai was skilled at both drawing and painting and is credited with one of the most important early Japanese prints entitled "The Great Wave off Kanagawa." It is Hokusai's most famous work and is often considered the most recognizable work of Japanese art in the world.

- a. Hokusai was the first important printmaker in Japan and one of the first to feature nature in his work.
- b. Grade Level: Grade 1st -5TH Gr.
- c. Vocabulary
 - i. Landscape
 - ii. Woodblock printmaking
 - iii. The Wave
 - iv. Wood Carving
 - v. Mount Fuji
- d. Art Medium
 - i. White computer paper
 - ii. Watercolor paper
 - iii. Watercolor paintbrush
 - iv. Colored Pencils
 - v. Watercolors
 - vi. Crayons
 - vii. Felt markers
 - viii. Cup
 - ix. Water
 - x. Downloadable templates from Goldenroadarts.org website

2. Fun Facts

- a. Woodblock printmaking was invented in China around 600, CE.
- b. Katsushika Hokusai (1760 – 1849) is often regarded as one of Japan's first great artists, and among the last artists of the Ukiyo-e movement. Ukiyo-e translates to "images of the floating world."

- c. Hokusai began painting when he was six. At age twelve, his father sent him to work at a bookstore. At sixteen, he was apprenticed as an engraver and spent three years learning the trade. At the same time, he began to produce his own illustrations. At eighteen he was accepted as an apprentice to Katsukawa Shunshō, one of the foremost ukiyo-e artists of the time.
- d. Hokusai used a number of first names during his life, each signifying a new level of expertise.
- e. “The Great Wave off Kanagawa,” also known as “The Great Wave” or just “The Wave,” is a woodblock print published sometime between 1829 and 1833 in the late Edo period as the first print in Hokusai’s series “Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji.” The image depicts an enormous wave threatening three boats off the coast in the Sagami Bay (Kanagawa Prefecture) while Mount Fuji rises in the background. Sometimes assumed to be a tsunami, the wave is more likely to be a large rogue wave.
- f. The Great Wave is part of Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji with the main theme focusing on the mount. The Fine Wind, Clear Morning print, also known as Red Fuji, is part of the series and is more highly esteemed in Japan than the Wave print. “Red Fuji” is also among the most famous early works of Japanese art.
- g. The Hokusai Manga (“Hokusai’s Sketches”) is a collection of sketches of various subjects by the Japanese artist Hokusai. Subjects of the sketches include landscapes, flora and fauna, everyday life and the supernatural. The word manga in the title does not refer to the contemporary story-telling manga, as the sketches in the work are not connected to each other.

3. Lesson Plan

- a. Elements of Art
 - i. Line
 - ii. Shape
 - iii. Form
 - iv. Value
 - v. Space
 - vi. Color
- b. Principles of Art
 - i. Balance
 - ii. Emphasis (contrast)
 - iii. Proportion
 - iv. Gradation
 - v. Harmony
 - vi. Variety
 - vii. Movement

- c. Visualization
 - i. How did your pictures differ when you colored them with felt pens and crayons or painted them with watercolor?
 - ii. How were each of your pictures similar when you colored them with felt pens and crayons or painted them with watercolors?
 - d. Goals and Objectives
 - i. Students will understand the process of painting with watercolors and a paintbrush.
 - ii. Students will observe how textures and values change depending upon which medium they use.
 - e. Students Critique Questions
 - i. What do you like about the pictures you have created?
 - ii. What do you like about your classmate's pictures?
 - iii. What would you do differently next time you create a drawing or painting from a famous artist's template?
4. To meet standards, students should be encouraged to watch the following videos.
- a. Hokusai and Hiroshige: Great Japanese Prints from the James A. Michener Collection <https://youtu.be/VaP4wt1n3w0>
 - b. Woodblock Printing Process - A Japan Journey (Canadian-Japanese artist David Bull) <https://youtu.be/M8ma5q9-IA0>

COMPLIANCE WITH EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS (PER GRADE)

1 st Grade	VA.1.CR1.1 #1, #2, & #3; VA.2.CR2.1 #1; VA.3.CR3.1 #1 & #2. VA.8.RE2.1 #1, VA.9.RE3.1 #1, VA.10.CO1.1 #1 & #2; VA.11.CO2.1 #1 & #2; A:Cr1.1.1a, VA:Cr1.2.1a, VA:Cr2.1.1a, VA:Cr3.1.1a, VA:Pr4.1.1a, VA:Re.7.1.1a, VA:Re.7.2.1a, VA:Re8.1.1a, VA:Re9.1.1a, VA:Cn11.1.1a
2 nd Grade	VA.:1.CR1.2 #1, #2, & #3; VA.2.CR2.2 #1; VA.3.CR3.2 #1, #2 & #3; VA.8.RE2.2 #1., VA.9.RE3.2 #1., VA.10.CO1.2 #2., VA.11.CO2.2 #1 & #2; VA:Cr1.1.2a, VA:Cr1.2.2a, VA:Cr2.1.2a, VA:Cr3.1.2a, VA:Pr6.1.2a, VA:Re.7.2.2a, VA:Re8.1.2a, VA:Re9.1.2a, VA:Cn11.1.2a
3 rd Grade	VA.1.CR1.3 #1, #2, & #3; VA.2.CR2.3 #1, VA.3.CR3.3 #1, #2, & #3, VA.5.PR2.3 #1 & #2, VA.6.PR3.3 #2, VA.8.RE2.3 #1 & #2, VA.9.RE3.3 #1 & #2; VA.11.CO2.3 #1 & #2, VA:Cr1.1.3a, VACr1.2.3a, VA:Cr2.1.3a, VA:Cr3.1.3a, VA:Pr6.1.3a, VA:Re7.1.3a, VA:Re8.1.3a, VARE9.1.3a, VA:Cn11.1.3a
4 th Grade	VA.1.CR1.4 #1, #2, & #3, VA.2.CR2.4 #1., VA.3.CR3.4 #1., #2., & #3., VA.5.PR2.4 #1. & #2., VA.7.RE1.4 #2, & #3, VA.8.RE2.4 #1., VA.9.RE3.4

#1 & #2; VA.11.CO2.4 #1 & #2; VA:Cr1.1.4a, VA:Cr1.2.4a, VA:Cr2.1.4a,
VA:Cr3.1.4a, VA:Re.7.1.4a, VA:Re.7.2.4a, VA:Re8.1.4a, VA:Re9.1.4a,
VA:Cn11.1.4a

5th Grade

VA.1.CR1.5. #2, & #3, VA.2.CR2.5 #1, #3, & #4;, VA.3.CR3.5 #1, #2 & #3;
VA.5.PR2.5 #2 & #3; VA.7.RE1.5 #1, #2, & #3; VA.8.RE2.5 #1,
VA.9.RE3.5 #1 & #2; VA.1.CR1.5, #2; VA.2.CR2.5, #1, #3 & #4;
VA.7.RE1.5, #2; VA.8.RE2.5, #1; VA.9.RE3.5 #1, #2; VA.CO1.5 #1 & #2