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Utagawa Hiroshige, Japanese printmaker and artist

1. Overview

- a. Artist, printmaker, and teacher Barbara Mason discusses the life and artwork of Utagawa Hiroshige, the Japanese-born artist and printmaker. Hiroshige was a successor to the art of Hokusai, who was the first important printmaker in Japan and one of the first to feature nature in his work. Hiroshige – whose lifetime barely overlapped Hokusai’s – continued his landscape tradition with a series called 53 views of the Tokaido.
- b. Grade Level: Grade 1st -5TH Gr.
- c. Vocabulary
 - i. Landscape
 - ii. Woodblock printmaking
 - iii. The Tokaido (road from Tokyo to Kyoto, Japan)
 - iv. Mount Fuji
 - v. Accordion Book
- 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. Utagawa Hiroshige is often regarded as the last great artist of the Ukiyo-e movement. Ukiyo-e translates to “images of the floating world.”
- c. Hiroshige’s family were Samurai, meaning they were the highest ranking of the four Japanese castes.
- d. At 12, Hiroshige became an orphan and had to fend for himself.

- e. After his father died, Hiroshige inherited his father's role of fire warden of Edo castle. The job provided him enough income to survive, but it also provided him with a lot of free time
- f. Hiroshige was known for his woodblock prints that featured beautiful skies in saturated color gradients. He achieved the subtle variation in hue using the ukiyo-e bokashi technique. This involved using a brush to apply ink in multiple colors to different sections of a moistened printing block. The ink bleeds across the wet area, creating a soft gradation when printed on paper.
- g. Hiroshige's prints helped popularize Japanese art around the world. In Europe, artists of the 19th century were fascinated by his use of color and his ability to capture the passing of time.
- h. There were 53 post stations along the route to Kyoto, and Hiroshige stopped at each one to sketch the scene. When he returned home, the artist immediately began work on the first prints from the series. He presented the landscape prints to publishing houses, and they soon became some of his best-selling works. The success of The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido series established Hiroshige as the most successful printmaker of the time.
- i. Writing things down helps us remember them. Writing your story in your own handmade book will help you recall your life years from now.

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-lA0>

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; VA: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