

Painting the history of the Frontier: Eric Bransby Lesson Plan

Frontier Army Museum
Fort Leavenworth, KS
September 2020

Subject: Fine Arts/Historic Arts

Grades: 6-12

LESSON ABSTRACT:

Students will select one of the three paintings by Eric Bransby “The First Dragoons: Fort Leavenworth”, “The Fork - The Oregon And Santa Fe Trail”, or “Keelboats on the Missouri Founding of Fort Leavenworth”. They will use visual and critical thinking to analyze the contents of the painting and draw conclusions about the art work. Additionally students will learn about the historical context behind the inspiration for the artwork. Students will then create their own mural based on a historical topic provided.

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- List the objects and visual information in the painting
- Analyze and interpret the painting
- Discuss the analysis of the painting
- Learn about the history that the painting represents
- Discuss the importance of art and how it can be used as a medium to record and represent history
- Utilize historical content to create artwork

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Kansas Standards:

History, Government, Social Studies Standards

1.1 The student will recognize and evaluate significant choices made by individuals, communities, states, and nations that have impacted our lives and futures.

1.2 The student will analyze the context under which choices are made and draw conclusions about the motivations and goals of the decision-makers.

4.1 The student will recognize and evaluate continuity and change over time and its impact on individuals, institutions, communities, states, and nations.

National Core Art Standards:

Creating

1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work

Performing/Presenting/ Producing

4. Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation

Responding

7. Perceive and analyze artistic work.

8. Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

9. Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

Connecting

11. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

PRIMARY SOURCES NEEDED

- **Images of the three paintings:** Provided in program pdf
- **Readings**
 - Biography of Eric Bransby
 - The First Dragoons: Fort Leavenworth
 - [The Life of the Dragoon Enlisted Men](#), by J. Patrick Hughes, Ph.D
 - [Dragoon Soldier Historical Background](#) – National Park Service
 - The Fork - The Oregon And Santa Fe Trail
 - [Santa Fe Trail](#) – National Park Service
 - [The Oregon Trail](#) - Nebraska Educational Telecommunications
 - Keelboats on the Missouri Founding of Fort Leavenworth
 - [Fort Leavenworth History](#) - By Marc Reyes, University of Connecticut
 - [Keelboat: Boat or barge?](#) - Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
 - Thomas Benton Hart
 - [Thomas Benton Hart Biography](#) - Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM)
 - Design your own mural historical links:
 - [US Army: Development of the West](#)
 - [The U.S. Army protecting the National Parks](#)
 - [Army Experiments: The Camel Corps \(1856-1866\)](#)

SECONDARY MATERIALS

- [Simple steps to Reading a Painting](#)
- [Types of major painting styles](#)
- [Art For The People Documentary](#)
 - Biography segment: 2:45-12:07

Contact:

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