

George Washington by Gilbert Stuart Lesson Plan

- I. Introduce Masterpiece of the Month:**
George Washington, The Athenaeum, by Gilbert Stuart
- a. Display the poster of George Washington. Ask if anyone knows who it is or if they've seen this portrait anywhere.
 - b. Introduce Gilbert Stuart- an American painter from Rhode Island, who lived during the colonial period, and specialized in portraits. Give a brief history of his life. Relate Colonial time in terms the kids understand, Liberty Kids Cartoon, Felicity Am. Girl Doll, 1776, Declaration of Independence.
 - c. Talk about "portrait" (person's face) versus "self-portrait" (of one's self).
 - d. Talk about the different types of portraits- drawing, painting, photography, sculpture. And often portraits used to record how a person looked. The only way to do a portrait was to paint or sculpt until 1840 when photography was invented.
 - e. Explain the different styles of portrait painting realistic and abstract. Show examples of both...Mona Lisa (Leonardo DaVinic), Van Gogh, Frida, Marilyn Monroe (Andy Warhol).
- II. Read the book George Washington's Teeth**
- a. Ask the kids to guess what George Washington was thinking about. Was he trying to look regal or important as President?
 - b. Discuss how Gilbert Stuart really wanted the personality/ character of the person he was painting to show.
- III. Complete the Observation Worksheet**
- a. Have the teacher sit in front of the class
 - b. Hand out worksheet and explain the lesson of drawing a portrait and purpose of doing the observation exercise to focus on details - lines, shapes, colors, form, textures, and expression.
 - c. Ask the kids to look closely at the face; the football shape of the eyes, how the top of the ears line up with the eyes, the corners of the mouth line up with the center of the eyes, oval shape of the face, unique features of model.
 - d. Talk about expression and the personality of your model.

IV. Art Project (20 min).

- a. Hand out oversized dollar bill and pencils
- b. Asked the kids to draw a portrait of the teacher
Reinforce art concept of a portrait and encourage student to try to observe and draw exactly what they see
- c. Be sure the student signs their work of art

V. Wrap up exercise

- a. Who can tell me the name of the person in the Master Piece of the Month?
- b. Where else can you find the portrait of *George Washington*?
- c. Who can tell me the name of the artist?
- d. Who can tell me one nifty fact about *Gilbert Stuart*?
- e. Who can tell me one fact about the painting?

VI. Put leave behind materials in mailboxes

- a. Letter home