



Creativity in The Arts

To create is to cause something to come into being or existence. Artists, working in many styles or genres, practice creativity by coming up with new and unique styles or ways of making things using their intellectual inventiveness, imagination, intuition, and talent. The things these artists create may be unusual or one of a kind. They may also be the result of an unusual technique or an adaptation of a traditional method.

Whatever the result of this creative process, the created thing will probably be beyond expectations. The forms, ideas, or methods may transcend traditional rules or patterns and present a different perspective. Creativity is the theme of the lessons in this unit.

The creativity of three unique and talented individuals whose art forms will delight your students and challenge them to look beyond the ordinary and expected, while looking inward to their own creative expressions. Your students will appreciate depth of poetry and spoken word in **African America**. They will then have the opportunity to create a poetic narrative based on a life experience. The austerity and the **arts community** will spotlight another artist. Your students will follow a creative process and drive themselves as creators.

Your students will be introduced to the visual artist' interpretation of another part of **culture** in African America. They will take notice of graffiti or street art as valuable by the mainstream. Information about the creativity of these and other artists along with related topics can be explored in the African American Registry®. You and your students will find resources, references, articles and videos to deepen your understanding and satisfy your desire for greater knowledge.

MINNESOTA STATE STANDARDS ADDRESSED

Language Arts

Reading and Literature Strand

- Understand the meaning of texts using various strategies
- Demonstrate interpretive, inferential, and evaluative comprehension

Writing Strand

- Compose various pieces writing

- Write clearly and coherently for effective communication

Speaking, Listening, and Viewing Strand

- Demonstrate understanding and communicate effectively using active listening and dynamic speaking

Arts - Theater Strand

- Use movement, sound, and language to create and express ideas

Arts - Visual Art Strand

- create visual artwork from various materials

THEMATIC LEARNING GOALS

- examine and learn about the life and work of three African American artists
- understand that everyday occurrences can serve as inspiration for creative expression
- find joy in creating visual and literary art

BASIC ACTIVITIES FOR EACH LESSON

- read, listen to, and view artwork
- participate in discussion using **critical response**
 - * what did you *sense*? Describe in detail
 - * what does it remind you of? Something heard, seen or felt before
 - * feeling? What emotion or mood is communicated?
 - * what questions would you ask the artist about the work?
 - * what do you think this work is about? What observation/experience supports your idea? What evidence does the artist give to support your idea?
- creative time — focusing on your own ideas to create work
- sharing created works with the class or wider community