

Joslyn Art Museum

Comprehensive Study Lesson Plan

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Theme: Power of Nature

Focus: Thomas Hart Benton and his *The Hailstorm*

Objectives:

- Become expressive writers and painters.
- Create a visual personal narrative.
- Gain an understanding of history and weather.

After completing this lesson, students will be able to do the following:

- Through exploration of nature students will be able to develop and share or explain their personal aesthetic response to the painting.

Instructional Strategies that Strongly Affect Student Achievement – Robert J. Marzano

_____ 01 Identifying similarities and differences	_____ 06 Cooperative learning
_____ 02 Summarizing and note taking	_____ 07 Setting goals and providing feedback
_____ 03 Reinforcing effort and providing recognition	_____ 08 Generating and testing hypotheses
_____ 04 Homework and practice	_____ 09 Activating prior knowledge
_____ 05 Nonlinguistic representations	

Resources:

Check out the **Teacher Support Materials** online for additional resources.

Suggested Materials: Thomas Hart Benton's *The Hailstorm* framed reproduction or teaching poster; "Five Senses -Head" template; information about weather warnings/watches, information about the five senses, Steve Joy images.

Vocabulary: taste, touch, smell, sound, sight, feeling, emotion, rhythm, related weather words, paint, canvas, shapes (organic and geometric), art elements.

Procedure:

- **Engage:** Nature Hunt through Steve Joy's work. Joy tries to make a spiritual connection to surface texture and materials. He would create moods and feelings about the places he is painting. Try to find and interpret those in the Steve Joy images.
- **Art Talk:** Think about the five senses. Look at Benton's *The Hailstorm*. What do you see? What would you smell? What would you hear? What would you feel? What would you taste? Write the answers on the "Five Senses Head" template where you would experience that sense. Refer to **Art Talk – THBenton** in **Teacher Support Materials**.
- **History:** Who was Thomas Hart Benton? Refer to the **Presentation, Bibliography and Webology** in **Teacher Support Materials**.

- **Aesthetics:** Emotions, feelings, tie into a real-life situation (tie into current natural disasters). Weather warnings/watches (Science).
- **Production:** Create a visual personal narrative recounting an experience with extreme weather. Focus on diagonals to create action. Refer to **Production – THBenton** in **Teacher Support Materials** for detailed lesson plan.
- **Close:** Game – create a Jeopardy review. Refer to **Teacher Support Materials** for template.

Extensions:

- **Cultural Connections:** Compare Thomas Hart Benton with other Midwest artists.
- **Fine Arts:** Rhythm – Study Benton's paintings and create an overlay identifying the curves and counterpoints. Refer to the **Teacher Support Materials** for additional information. Looking at Steve Joy's images, identify the organic and geometric shapes.
- **Language Arts:** Writing assignment – Write from the perspective of one of the men in Benton's *The Hailstorm*; write a personal narrative tying in the five senses. Look at Steve Joy's images and have students write a story to detail what they "see". Incorporate the five senses in the story.
- **Math:** Look at Benton's *The Hailstorm* and break apart the image to find shapes and angles. For higher grades, mathematically determine the angles. Discuss how the varied angles create different visual affects.
- **Science:** Understand and study how Doppler radar works and related weather terminology.

Selected References: Go online to **Teacher Support Materials** and review the **Bibliography** and **Webology**.