

Joslyn Art Museum Comprehensive Study Lesson Plan

Created by Athena Cho, Ryan Deike, Angela Fischer and Laura Huntimer.

Theme: Opening the Past with the Present

Focus: *The Virgin of the Rosary*, Artist Unknown

Objectives:

- Discover the meaning of icon and symbolism
- Gain knowledge on how icons are used in art, advertising, math, etc.
- Create an image illustrating personal iconography
- Explore the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and gain insight into the feast day celebration through song and dance.

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

- By exploring symbols students will be able to describe how icons and symbols are represented in history and be able to identify them as well as examine them in our world today.

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 (October 2008)** online for additional resources.

Suggested Materials: *The Virgin of the Rosary* framed reproduction or teaching poster; sketch sheets, art making materials, symbol diagrams, Frayer model, useful images (*Our Lady of Guadalupe*), symbolism information, examples of song and dance videos.

Vocabulary: Ancestor, balance, icon, symbol, symbolism, symmetry.

Procedure:

- **Engage:** Share the book *Look! Look! Look!* By Nancy Elizabeth Wallace and Linda K. Friedlaender with your students. Then gather your students around the framed reproduction or teaching poster of *The Virgin of the Rosary*. Refer to **Presentation** in the **Teacher Support Materials** for Classroom Activities adapted from this book for *The Virgin of the Rosary*.
- **Art Talk:** Further explore the symbols and iconography in *The Virgin of the Rosary*. Use *The Virgin of the Rosary* diagram to record the meaning behind the symbols as they are revealed. Discuss how the symbols add to the power of the image. Look at other powerful images and research their symbols.
- **History:** What is *The Virgin of the Rosary* and Spanish Colonial History and Art? Refer to the **Presentation, Bibliography and Webology** in **Teacher Support Materials**.
- **Aesthetics:** Share the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Using examples of song and dance, enhance the description of feast day celebration. Discuss how the image of *Our Lady of Guadalupe* impacts Mexican culture today.

- **Production:** Discover personal iconography and create a visual representation of it through the *Make it Mine* lesson plan. Refer to **Production – VTOR** in the **Teacher Support Materials**.
- **Other:** Create a Frayer model for both symbol and icon. Refer to **Teacher Support Materials** for template.
- **Close:** Have students research their own heritage and think about what symbols or icons would represent it.

Extensions:

- **Cultural Connections:** Icon scavenger hunt. Take photos of recognizable icons around Omaha. Expand your search by finding images on the web to represent different cities/cultures (i.e. the Eiffel tower in France).
- **Fine Arts:** Gather materials to describe your heritage and create a shadow box. Make sure to use symbolic representations, no photographs.
- **Language Arts:** Use Our Lady of Guadalupe and Statue of Liberty images. For each image write a list of words that relate to it. Identify the types of words listed. Discuss and develop stories using those words.
- **Math:** Use common symbols (Nike, railroad crossing, walk/don't walk lights) to describe the importance of symbols in communication. Then talk about symbols used in math.
- **Science:** Look up the chemical compounds of the paints used in *The Virgin of the Rosary*. Which color is most expensive and/or complicated? Research how gold is applied to artworks.

~~Selected References: Go online to Teacher Support Materials (October 2008) and review the Bibliography and Webology.~~

Definition:

Characteristics:

Icon

Non-Example:

Example:

Definition:

Characteristics:

Symbolism

Non-Example:

Example: