

Lesson Plan: Exploring the Italian Renaissance and Leonardo da Vinci

Subject: Social Studies

Grade Level: High School

Duration: 1 week (5 days, approximately 45-50 minutes per day)

Standards: SS.912.W.1.1, SS.912.W.1.3, SS.912.W.1.4, SS.912.W.1.6, SS.912.W.4.2 ,
SS.912.W.4.3, SS.912.W.4.4, SS.912.W.4.5, SS.912.W.4.10, SS.912.H.1.1

Social Studies:

- SS.912.W.1.1 Use timelines to establish cause and effect relationships of historical events.
- SS.912.W.1.3 Interpret and evaluate primary and secondary sources.
- SS.912.W.1.4 Explain how historians use historical inquiry and other sciences to understand the past.
- SS.912.W.1.6 Evaluate the role of history in shaping identity and character.
- SS.912.W.4.2 Recognize major influences on the architectural, artistic, and literary developments of Renaissance Italy 60 (Classical, Byzantine, Islamic, Western European).
- SS.912.W.4.3 Identify the major artistic, literary, and technological contributions of individuals during the Renaissance.
- SS.912.W.4.4 Identify characteristics of Renaissance humanism in works of art.
- SS.912.W.4.5 Describe how ideas from the Middle Ages and Renaissance led to the Scientific Revolution.
- SS.912.W.4.10 Identify the major contributions of individuals associated with the Scientific Revolution.
- SS.912.H.1.1 Relate works in the arts (architecture, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts) of varying styles and genre according to the periods in which they were created.

Objectives

- Students will understand the historical, cultural, and intellectual context of the Italian Renaissance and identify the multifaceted contributions of Leonardo da Vinci to art, science, and technology.
- Students will also develop skills in critical thinking, source analysis, and creative expression.

Materials

- Textbook chapters on the Italian Renaissance
- Copies of artworks by Da Vinci (e.g., The Mona Lisa, The Last Supper)
- Excerpts from Da Vinci's journals and notebooks
- Access to online resources and documentaries about the Renaissance
- Art supplies for project
- Projector for presentations

Day 1: Introduction to the Renaissance

- Activities:
 - Lecture on the origins and characteristics of the Renaissance, emphasizing its development in Italy.
 - Discussion: What were the key shifts in art, culture, and science during the Renaissance compared to the Middle Ages?
 - Homework: Read assigned textbook sections on the Renaissance.

Day 2: Leonardo da Vinci - The Renaissance Man

- Activities:
 - Presentation on Leonardo da Vinci's life, highlighting his roles as an artist, inventor, and scientist.
 - Analysis: Students examine copies of Da Vinci's artworks and discuss his techniques and innovations.
 - Group Activity: Break into groups to research different aspects of Da Vinci's work (art, anatomy, engineering, etc.).

Day 3: Da Vinci's Artistic Contributions

- Activities:
 - Art Analysis: Deep dive into "The Mona Lisa" and "The Last Supper," discussing elements like perspective, composition, and emotional expression.
 - Interactive Discussion: How do these paintings reflect the ideals of the Renaissance?
 - Homework: Prepare a short presentation on one of Da Vinci's lesser-known paintings or sketches.

Day 4: Da Vinci's Scientific and Technological Insights

- Activities:
 - Student Presentations on Da Vinci's inventions and scientific studies.
 - Hands-On Activity: Replicate one of Da Vinci's simple machines using art supplies.
 - Discussion: Evaluate the impact of Da Vinci's scientific work on later developments in various fields.

Day 5: Synthesis and Creative Project

- Activities:
 - Creative Project: Students create their own art piece or model of an invention that incorporates elements learned about the Renaissance and Da Vinci.
 - Class Gallery Walk: Display and discuss each student's project.
 - Reflection: Students write a brief reflection on what they learned about the Renaissance and how historical contexts can influence artistic and scientific progress.

Assessment

- Participation in discussions and activities
- Group presentation on Da Vinci's contributions
- Artistic/Invention project and explanation
- Reflection writing

This plan encourages a comprehensive understanding of the Renaissance and Leonardo da Vinci's immense influence, facilitating learning through a variety of teaching methods including lectures, discussions, hands-on activities, and creative expression.