

Lesson Plan: The Genius of Leonardo da Vinci and His Modern Influence

Subject: Language Art

Grade Level: Middle School

Duration: 3-5 class periods (45-50 minutes each)

Standards: ELA.6-8.R.3.2, ELA.6-8.C.1.4, ELA.6-8.C.1.5, ELA.6-8.C.2.1, ELA.6-8.C.4.1

Language Arts:

Objectives

- ELA.6-8.R.3.2 Paraphrase content from grade-level texts.
- ELA.6-8.C.1.4 Write expository texts to explain and/or analyze information from multiple sources, using a logical organizational structure, relevant elaboration, and varied transitions.
- ELA.6-8.C.1.5 Improve writing by planning, revising, and editing, considering feedback from adults and peers.
- ELA.6-8.C.2.1 Present information orally, in a logical sequence, using nonverbal cues, appropriate volume, clear pronunciation, and appropriate pacing.
- ELA.6-8.C.4.1 Conduct research to answer a question, drawing on multiple reliable and valid sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate.

Materials

- Excerpts from biographies or articles on Leonardo da Vinci
- Images or diagrams of da Vinci's inventions
- Information on a modern-day inventor (Elon Musk, Steve Jobs, etc.)
- Guidelines and rubric for essay writing
- Access to multimedia presentations on da Vinci (optional)
- "Da Vinci: Genius" exhibit information or virtual tour (if available)

Day 1: Introduction to Leonardo da Vinci

- Warm-Up Activity: Ask students what they know about Leonardo da Vinci and list their responses on the board.
- Reading Activity: Provide students with selected readings about da Vinci's life and inventions. Discuss the readings in class, emphasizing his contributions to both art and science.

Day 2: Modern Inventions Derived from Da Vinci's Ideas

- Group Discussion: In groups, students will research and discuss modern machines that were inspired by da Vinci's sketches and ideas.
- Presentation: Each group presents their findings, focusing on how da Vinci's inventions have influenced modern technology.

Day 3: Writing Workshop 1

- Essay Introduction: Introduce the essay prompts and discuss expectations. Review essay writing strategies and provide students with a rubric.
- Brainstorming Session: Students brainstorm ideas for their essays, including potential modern-day inventors/geniuses to compare with da Vinci.

Day 4: Writing Workshop 2

- Drafting: Students begin drafting their essays. Encourage peer review and offer guidance on structure, content, and coherence.

Day 5: Reflection and Sharing

- Essay Completion: Students finalize their essays.
- Class Discussion: Hold a discussion on how art, in all its forms, and inventions can enhance personal well-being and happiness.
- Sharing and Feedback: Students share their essay insights with the class. Discuss how the "Da Vinci: Genius" exhibit (or similar resources) can inspire or motivate people to explore artistic performances.

Assessment

- Essays will be assessed based on the provided rubric, focusing on understanding of da Vinci's contributions, comparison with modern figures, reflection on the impact of art and inventions, and overall coherence and writing quality.

Extension Activity

- Plan a virtual or in-person visit to a museum featuring da Vinci's works or inventions.
- Create art or engineering projects inspired by da Vinci's sketches.

This lesson plan is designed to not only educate students about the historical significance of Leonardo da Vinci but also to encourage them to make connections between past and present innovations, and reflect on the broader impact of art and science on society and individual well-being.