



AFK ArtReach Video: The Stories We Carry With Us

Activity:

In this video an AFK art teacher shares ideas for creating a **mixed media drawing** representing our personal histories through symbols. We explore a print by Canadian artist **Kenojuak Ashevak** and draw inspiration from a photography trend called "knolling". We also learn about **Orange Shirt Day**, an annual day dedicated to learning about the history and impacts of Residential Schools in Canada and to honouring Indigenous children who attended these schools. As we create our own drawings we consider the invisible backpack of experience and history that we all carry with us and ways that we can approach others with compassion and respectfulness.

Inquiry Questions:

- How can we represent our personal stories and histories through symbols?
- How can we contribute to environments in which we all feel safe to play?

Big Idea:

Identity is explored, expressed, and impacted through arts experiences (**Visual Arts 9**)

Pre-Class Preparation:

The teacher will need to prepare the following materials prior to the activity:

- Computer and projector to display video in class
- 12" x 9" sheet of thick white paper (1 per student)
- Device to take photos with (i.e. phone, ipad, camera)
- Printer
- 8.5" x 11" sheet of tracing paper (1 per student)
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Tape
- Drawing tool for outlining (i.e. sharpie, micron pen, black marker)
- Art material to add colour with (i.e. watercolour paints or pencil crayons)

First Peoples Principles of Learning

- Learning is relational and focused on connectedness.
- Learning involves recognizing the consequences of one's actions.

Curricular Competencies: What students will DO

Students will be able to use the following creative process(es):

- Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of personal, social, cultural, historical, and environmental contexts in relation to the arts **(Visual Arts 9)**
- Reflect on works of art and creative processes to make connections to personal learning and experiences **(Visual Arts 9)**
- Demonstrate respect for themselves, others, and the audience **(Visual Arts 9)**
- Compose, interpret, and expand ideas using symbolism, imagery, and elements **(Visual Arts 9)**

Concepts and Content: What students will KNOW

Students will know the following concepts and content:

- A variety of materials, techniques, and technologies used for creating mixed media drawings **(Art Studio 10)**
- Elements and principles of design including shape, colour, and balance **(Visual Arts 9)**

Core Competencies (suggested questions for reflection)

- COMMUNICATION: What symbols did you choose to communicate aspects of your identity and personal experiences?
- THINKING: What responsibilities do you have in contributing to environments in which others feel safe?
- PERSONAL AND SOCIAL: How do the items in your own "invisible backpack" of experiences impact your choices and actions?

Suggested Descriptive Feedback

- Nora contributes her ideas and questions about works of visual art to the group, exploring artists' intent, imagery, and use of the elements and principles of art and design.
- Nora has developed personal imagery using symbolism in the creation of a mixed media drawing.
- Nora creates drawings that thoughtfully incorporate the elements and principles of art and design including balance, shape, and colour.