

Internet Activity

Teacher Version

You will need to remind the students of the video they have seen regarding Georgia O'Keeffe. Ask them to decide how O'Keeffe was influenced in her later life as an artist by her early years. The first 3 questions will help to provide some background information for their answer. Please stress that their answer should be an explanatory statement, not a simple yes or no.

During this activity, students will be using the resources of the Internet to obtain images and information about the life of Georgia O'Keeffe. You should have bookmarked some appropriate sites for students to use in answering these questions. Encourage them to stay on these sites to avoid improper Web site access. Remind them to be sure to cite the site (copy and paste the URL) used to find each answer.

1. When and where was Georgia O'Keeffe born?

Nov 15,1887 in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin

2. What early training in art did Georgia receive?

She was trained to draw and then paint in the current realistic style.

3. When did Georgia O'Keeffe decide that she would become an artist?

Age 8

The next 4 questions deal with the chronology of O'Keeffe's emerging modern art style. They are based the time at which she felt she was at a turning point in her life. Each question deals with a major facet of her artistic style.

4. What was the name of the picture that won her the William Merrit Chase Award?

Dead Rabbit with Copper Pot

5. What is the significance of each date listed below as it relates to O'Keeffe's life and work?

1908 William Merrit Chase award/1908 for "Dead Rabbit with Copper Pot"/ quit art

1912 Introduced to concepts of William Dow: The goal of art was the expression of the artist's personal ideas and feelings and that such subject matter was best realized through harmonious arrangements of line, color, and **notan**.

1917 First individual show at 291.

1929 Went to New Mexico, where stunning vistas and stark landscape configurations inspired her work from 1929 on.

6. What does the term **notan** mean in the art world? Think Japanese!

The Japanese system of lights and darks.

7. What was 291 and how did it play a significant role in O'Keeffe's career?

Arthur Steiglitz's gallery. She was first exhibited there and she later met and married him.

The next two questions involve the theme and composition of O'Keeffe's major body of works. Tell the class that they need to look at her work as occurring in stages. Try to look at the sites like Arts Cyclopedia to get an idea of the progression of development of her style. You might wish to have students create a timeline of thumbnail copies of the Web site pictures to enable a simple analysis of style development.

8. What one theme is found in all of O'Keeffe's works?

Nature is the one essential ingredient in all of her work.

9. What do the bones symbolize in her paintings?

"When I found the beautiful white bones in the desert, I picked them up and took them home, too. I have used these things to say what is to me the wideness and wonder of the world as I live in it."
Georgia O'Keeffe

The final portion of this activity involves general background information and a comparison of O'Keeffe's work with Rousseau.

10. When and why did she stop painting?

O'Keeffe continued to work in oil until the late 1970s, when failing eyesight forced her to abandon painting. Although she continued working in pencil and watercolor until 1982, she also produced objects in clay until her health failed in 1984.

11. When did she die?

In 1986, at the age of 98.

12. Which single museum contains the largest collection of O'Keeffe's works?

National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

13. What made the flowers of O'Keeffe similar to the lush jungle landscapes of Rousseau?

Both dramatically enlarged plants.

Internet Activity

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