

INVESTIGATING FAME



A High School Unit for Art 1
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Investigating Fame

Overview of Unit:

"Fame, I'm going to live forever" is the line from the theme song for the movie "Fame" released in 1980 and again in 2009. This song will provide the backdrop for this unit. In this unit students will explore the definition, idealism and the consequences of fame. Students will examine the pros and cons of being famous. Students will learn that while people idealize and dream of fame, it is often not the life they had hoped it would be. Fame does come with a cost for many people. Students will explore fame in pop culture and in the sub culture of the art world.

Overarching understandings:

Fame is something many people aspire to in their lives, but fame also comes with a cost.

Overarching Essential Questions:

- ★ How do we define Fame?
- ★ How is Fame idealized in our culture?
- ★ What are the pros and cons of Fame?
- ★ Is the "cost" of fame worth it?
- ★ Why does a person want to be famous?

Students will know:

- ★ The definition of fame.
- ★ The positives and negatives of fame through their research.
- ★ About famous people in pop culture and the positive and negative effects of their fame.
- ★ About famous artists and their work.
- ★

Students will be able to:

- ★ Write about a famous person and analyze how fame has effected them.
- ★ Produce an expressive portrait of a famous person showing the effects of fame.
- ★ Write/present about a famous artist and include a work of art that is an example of why they are famous.
- ★ Experiment and create a work of art in the style of that artist.
- ★ Analyze a song about fame and decide how the artist feels about fame.



Lessons and Activities

Lesson 1: "Fame, I'm going to live forever"

Overview of lesson: Students will define Fame and its implications. Students will discuss the positive and negative effects of fame and they will site specific examples of famous people.

Lesson 2: The Cost of Fame Expressive Portraits

Overview of Lesson: Once the teacher has determined all students have a clear understanding of the definition of fame, students will choose a famous person to write about and to create an expressive portrait of that person reflecting how fame has affected that person.



Andy Lloyd- UK artist



Wyatt Mills- USA Artist



Francoise Nielly-French Artist



Lessons and Activities

Andy Warhol-“In the future everyone will be world-famous for 15 minutes.”

Lesson 3: How is fame achieved in the art world?

Overview of Lesson: Students will choose a favorite famous work of art and then research the artist and the style of art as well as the artwork chosen. The students will inquire about what made that particular artwork famous and why. They will also inquire about how the artist got famous. Students will explore through hands on experimentation how the artist worked and how the artist formulated his or her style of art. Students will document their processes. Students will create a power point presentation to present their findings to the class. The artwork produced may or may not be a final product but rather a learning process. Students' grades will reflect their research on the artist, the famous artwork and their own experimentation that will all be documented and presented in the power point. Students will also receive a grade on their classroom presentation and their reflection.



Lesson 4: Fame in Music

Overview of Lesson: Students will choose a song that they know or from a given list that deals with the concept of fame. They will listen to the song and print out the lyrics. They will analyze the song to determine what the artist is saying about fame. They will write their findings in a one-page paper. Including a hyperlink to the song for the teacher.



Artists and Resources



- ★ Famous Artists referenced: Andy Warhol, Vincent Van Gogh and Chuck Close.
- ★ Current rising Artists- Andy Lloyd – UK – Portrait Artist.
Wyatt Mills – USA- Expressive Portrait artist.
Francoise Nielly- French Artist
- ★ Students could do a Google search of famous works of art and they will be provided a list of URL's to peruse for artist ideas, such as the examples listed below.
[african american artists](#)
[female artists list](#)
- ★ Students will be able to choose their own song about fame to analyze but they may also choose from the list of songs on the reference sheet if necessary. They will be given a list of URL's.
[songs about fame](#)
[More songs about fame](#)
- ★ Students will also have access to the unit Pinterest Page which has a multitude of references for drawing and artists.
<http://www.pinterest.com/nwstaunton4/fame-unit-resources-and-lessons/>