

Making Memories

Students learned a great deal about their individual family histories. Bonds between parents and students were strengthened as they communicated about a subject that became very meaningful to all. Students became very possessive of their books and, toward the end, put in extra hours after school in order to create more pages and add more embellishments to the completed work.

Curriculum/State Standard

Students will understand how artists discover ideas for art through personal experiences.

Overview

Students gathered information about their family histories as well as old family photographs. Students also took pictures of current family members and wrote stories and poems. All work was collaged on the computer, printed out, and compiled in a book that the student made.

Objectives

- The student will acquire marketable design skills using Adobe Photoshop and photography.
- The student will increase sensitivity and pride in their family heritage, as well as a deeper understanding of their history and how it inter-relates to the history of others.
- The student will learn how to gather information from local and Internet resources.

Materials

Color film, printing inks, photo paper and photo quality ink jet paper for the computer, acrylic matte medium, acrylic matte varnish, print-making paper, mat board for books and for framing individual pieces, glue, brushes. I also purchased several books on genealogy, which were helpful in our research.

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10-12

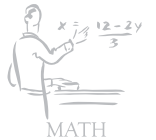
GRADE LEVEL



ARTS



LANGUAGE



MATH

Misc

MISCELLANEOUS



SCIENCE



HISTORY



SOCIAL STUDIES

9

CLASSES

\$1200

TOTAL BUDGET

“Making Memories” project continued...

Readiness Activity

In conjunction with another grant on public art, which another teacher had received, I introduced students to how different cultures revere their ancestors. This led to a discussion of our ancestors and the many paths they took to reach our country and the qualities that they possessed to survive so many hardships. We decided to make Shinto totems to honor a loved one that they admired and respected. This provided me with the perfect lead in to my project.

Strategies/Activities

Students interviewed their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents to obtain information about the history of their family.

Students researched the country and areas from which their families came.

All research was compiled in a journal, along with their personal feelings and observations about their discoveries.

Students searched for old photographs of relatives and discussed them with family members, documenting their personal responses in their journals.

Students shot photographs of existing family members to document their family life today.

Students gathered symbolic family mementos, which were scanned into the computer.

Scanned images and family photos were manipulated into artistic collages that represented the history of their family.

Students wrote an interpretive paragraph or poem based on their journal entries to demonstrate knowledge gained and how they had been influenced by the assignments.

Students created hand-made books to house their completed images and writings.

Students had one of their collage pages matted.

Culminating Activity

Our culminating activity involved the making of our memory books. Students started with two pieces of 91/2” x 111/2” mat board. Students had the choice of making either a fold out book or an accordion type book. They brushed the board with acrylic matte medium. They then covered the board with medium weight muslin fabric. This was weighted down and allowed to dry over night. Printmaking paper was torn, folded, and glued into the book. Students then printed their pictures and arranged them in their books. The books were embellished and the covers decorated as the students saw fit.

Evaluation

The teacher evaluated the students' progress based on the Personal Expression Scale that is found in the Ohio State guide for Art Education. The students self-critiqued their performances and discussed what they learned from the project.