

Lesson Plan:
classroom hall of fame



Art Work:

The Hall of Fame for Great Americans
102 bronze portrait busts
Architect: Stanford White
Sculptors include:
Richmond Barthe, A. Stirling Calder,
Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Daniel Chester
French, Malvina Hoffman, Jean-Antoine
Houdon, Frederick MacMonnies, among
many others.



Location:

Bronx Community College, 560-foot
outdoor colonnade. University Avenue and
West 181st Street, Bronx, NY 10453. For
information: (718) 220-6003.

Grades:

4-6

About the Art:

Each year from 1900 to 1976, a board of 100 electors from various professions chose honorees from a group nominated by the public. People whose bronze busts were created from those chosen include familiar presidents such as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, military figures such as David Glasgow Farragut, writers such as Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson, scientists such as John James Audubon and Walter Reed and inventors such as Eli Whitney and the Wright Brothers.

Activity Objective:

Students will understand the concept of fame. As a class project, students will learn about the Hall of Fame honorees and will be able to create commemorative coins or medallions for them.

Questions for Discussion:

What do you know about any of the people whose busts are here? Why do you think these people were chosen as honorees? Why were they famous? What do these people have in common with each other? With you?

Materials:

paper
pencils
real coins to look at
plasticine or air dry clay
tools such as wooden sticks and plastic knives
container lids such as for yogurt or cottage cheese to form shape

Procedure:

- While at the Hall of Fame, ask students to choose one honoree and draw a sketch of the bust.
- Ask them to write down any information that they see around the chosen bust.
- Students research their chosen honoree and write a one-page paper on that person.
- Students study real coins carefully to determine how information might be integrated into the overall designs.
- Students create designs for their commemorative coins, drawing symbols, quotes, and an image of their person with pencil on paper.
- Give a demo on modeling clay. Show students how they can make a flat, round shape by rolling a sphere between two hands and then flattening the shape with a spherical object such as a pen. Show students how clay can be pinched, carved, or modeled to create different shapes.
- Students press their clay into container lids, and create their coins according to their design drawings.

Extensions:

- Students experience the selection process for the Hall of Fame candidates.
- Students vote on a group of Americans to be included into the Hall of Fame, taking into consideration the different categories by which a person may be chosen: Authors, Educators, Preachers and Theologians, Humanitarians, Social and Economic Reformers, Scientists, Engineers, Architects, Physicians and Surgeons, Inventors, Missionaries and Explorers, Military, Lawyers and Judges, Statesmen, Businessmen and Philanthropists, Artists, Musicians and Actors. Students brainstorm a list of people who might be included. Students write down reasons whether or not to choose a nominee, and share their thoughts with the group. Students vote on 10 honorees.
- Students create commemorative coins for their chosen honorees.



Closure:

Create a Hall of Fame in your classroom by displaying coins around the room. Allow students to walk around and study each coin. Facilitate a group discussion on the honorees and the ways the artists chose to represent them.

New York City Strands of Art Education:

1. Art making
2. Literacy in the arts
3. Making connections
4. Community and cultural resources
5. Careers and lifelong learning

National Art Education Learning Standards:

1. Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes
2. Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas
3. Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the works of others
4. Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures