

Guided Critique

Engels Vasilevich Kozlov

Russian Mother Baking Bread, 1967

oil on canvas

Springville Museum of Art Collection

Grade Level: 2-5





Look at this painting and describe what you see.

1. Describe where these people are. What colors do you see? What shapes can you find?
2. Who is in the picture? What do you think is the relationship between the two people?
3. What are they doing?
4. What else stands out to you?



Imagine

1. What is one word that could describe this painting?
2. Put yourself in the room. How do you think the bread would taste? What does the room smell like? What else can you see that isn't in the painting?
3. If you were to draw your kitchen, what would be in it? Who would be in it? What would they be doing?

Context

The USSR was a country that existed from 1922 to 1991. It was the largest country in the world at the time, and one of the largest in all of history. It included several countries that still exist today, including Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Caucasuses.

- Do you know where any of these countries are? Try finding some of them on a map.
- Most of these countries speak Russian today. What languages do you speak? What languages would you be interested in learning?

The painter, Engels Kozlov, was from the Ukrainian part of the USSR. During much of the 20th century, Ukraine was known as the “Breadbasket” of the Soviet Union because of its plentiful fields and rich grain harvests. Breads, pastas, cereals and more were made in this region and shipped all over the country.

- How does knowing the importance of bread from that region change your ideas about the painting?
- What kinds of crops grow in your area? Have you ever tried to grow anything before? Was it successful?



Location of Ukrainian SSR in the Soviet Union, Marcos Filipe, 2005



Context

Engles Vasilevich Kozlov (1926-2007) was born in the USSR, in what is today Ukraine. For many years, he was the head of the Leningrad Art Union. He specialized in paintings of everyday Russian life. He often liked to pair very different colors together, like blue-greens and golden browns. The Springville Museum of Art also houses another one of Kozlov's paintings called *Golden Autumn: Lady with Red Hat*. Can you find any similarities between this image and *Russian Mother Baking Bread*?





Conclude

1. What did you learn about this artwork or artist today?
2. What was your favorite part of this activity?

Further Learning

- Grab a blanket and some snacks, and read up on some fairy tales from the chilly regions of Russia [here](#).
- Learn to make the famous Ukrainian soup called borscht by following [this](#) recipe.
- Watch the Igor Moiseyev Ballet dance “Yablochko”, a popular Soviet tune, and dance along with it [here](#).
- Visit the Springville Museum of Art [website](#) to see more Soviet art and find more activities like these guided critiques.