

## Objectives

- Students will curate their own exhibit based of various themes
- Students will make decisions, communicate ideas as a group
- Students will create mini exhibitions and give tours to the class

## Introduction

Have you ever been to a museum and seen the art on the walls? How do museums decide what to hang up? If you could create any museum exhibit, what would it be about?

Curators are the people at museums who get to decide what kind of art to allow in an exhibition. Today, students will get the chance to be curators and create their own mini exhibitions!

## Learning Activity

Divide students into groups of 4 or 5. As a group, these students will be given the challenge of curating an exhibit based on a specific theme.

You may decided to assign the students different themes. Some ideas may include:

- Courage
- Play
- Color
- Portraits
- Shape
- Fear
- Habitats
- Family
- Exploration
- Leadership

(Note that this lesson is adaptable for older ages as well. In this case, you may want to let the groups choose their own themes)

Each group will receive a set of Education Postcards from the Springville Museum of Art. A set of postcards will include 59 different images. The students should narrow there selections down to works of art that very clearly fit into the selected theme.

They may find information on the back of each postcard helpful when deciding which art stays and which art goes. A finished exhibit will have about 10-15 images.



Lee Deffebach, *George II*, 1967, oil on canvas

## Materials

- Images of Portraits (See Images from the Museum)
- Springville Museum of Art Educational Postcard Set
- Paper
- Colored Pencils

## Utah Core Standards

### Science

#### Intended Learning Outcome 1

##### Use Science Process and Thinking Skills

- Observe Simple Objects, Patterns, and events and report their observations
- Sort and sequence data according to criteria given
- Given the appropriate instrument, measurement length, temperature, volume, and mass in metric units as specified
- Compare things, processes, and events
- Use classification systems

### Visual Arts:

#### Standard 3 Objective 1

Explore possible content in art prints or works of art.

- Determine the context by examining the subject matter, themes, symbols, ideas, and meanings in significant works of art.

In their individual groups, have students discuss the ideas behind each of their selected works. They should be able to articulate why they chose each piece.

After the students have finished creating their exhibit, they will choose one piece to be their “Signature image”- the piece that best represents their exhibition. They will also give a title to their exhibition. Have them work together to create a poster for their exhibit. They may use crayons or colored pencils but they should create something that accurately represents their theme.

## Class Discussion

Once students have finished their exhibitions, come together as a group and discuss the process of curating an exhibit. Ask the follow questions:

- What was difficult about this process?
- How did the information on the back of the cards affect your decisions?
- What is easier or harder working together with others in this process?
- Did your group have a hard time agreeing on a theme?

Students should present their exhibitions to the class.

## Extension

Have students give tours of their exhibits to the other groups in the class. They should be able to talk about each piece and explain to the students about their exhibition theme and title.

## Variations

As you discuss different themes in your class, you can do this activity in order to help students think deeper about specific ideas. For example, if you are teaching your students about Citizenship, have they choose pieces that reflect good citizenship. The themes can be extended to fit a variety of topics discussed in class.

## Assessment

Assess students using the following criteria:

- Did the student participate in their individual groups
- Did groups provide thoughtful discussion about their exhibitions?
- Does their exhibition have 10-15 images, a title, a signature image and a exhibition poster?



Nicholas Britsky, *New Americans*, 1974, oil on canvas