

Mr. Durkin (Social Studies Teacher), Ms. Luck (Art Teacher) Debbie Rentschler (Librarian)  
Upper St. Clair High School  
Spring 2010

## **Lesson Plan on “Changes in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Landscapes”**

### **Anticipatory Set:**

Today we are going to compare and contrast four different landscapes of the United States, painted by “Hudson River School” artists. The four paintings are : ”Thomas Cole’s, “View from Mount Holyoke, (The Oxbow) (1836),” and Albert Bierstadt’s “Looking Down Yosemite Valley, California, (1865)” compared to Edward Hopper’s, “House by the Railroad, (1925),” and Charles Sheeler’s “American Landscape (1930).” When you view these paintings, consider the impact of industrialization upon the American landscape and how these paintings reflect those changes.

### **Objective:**

Mr. Durkin’s social studies students will explore the aforementioned Hudson River paintings, and discern how they reflect the impact of industrialization upon the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century American landscape by using their pathfinder to conduct research for their reports. Ms. Luck’s art students will research the artists’ style of painting and try to replicate that style in paintings of their own.

### **Procedures**

Students will each receive a pathfinder, an MLA Reference Card, and a pink packet on online databases. The librarian will introduce the book cart, the pathfinder, the MLA Reference Card and the pink online database packet.

She will remind students to use the index in the books for specific topics. She will demonstrate how best to cite books according to the green MLA Reference Card, emphasizing a book with one author, a book with an editor, and a signed and unsigned article from a reference book or encyclopedia.

The librarian will then demonstrate and review accessing, using and citing the online databases listed on the pathfinder. She will remind students that the databases may be accessed from home. She will review the correct format for citing an online database, using the example on the MLA Reference Card.

She will then review the websites on the pathfinder, stressing the importance of using valid, authentic sites on the internet. She will review how to properly cite internet sources on the MLA Reference card.

The following **vocabulary**\* words will be reviewed when discussing the aforementioned paintings:

**School:** a “school” of artists is a group of individuals linked often geographically and always philosophically. Artists in a “school” or “movement” share the same approach

toward technique and/or share a similar attitude regarding the purpose of making art. Sometimes a school's philosophy is very much in synch with attitudes in society, other times a school of artists can be at odds with the rest of society.

**Landscape:** an artistic representation of natural inland scenery.

**Realism:** to represent the external world in an objective and factual manner.

**Luminism:** The pervasive glow of sunlight in a landscape is characteristic of Luminism, a trend among mid-nineteenth-century artists who saw light as landscape's most important binding ingredient as well as a symbol of divine presence.

**Foreground:** the part of a picture which appears closest to the viewer.

**Middle ground:** the part of a picture between the foreground and the background.

**Background:** the part of a picture representing what lies behind objects in the foreground or middle ground.

**Hudson River School:** The first group of American landscape painters emerged in the 1820s and became known as the Hudson River School because many of them painted in and around the Hudson River Valley and the nearby Catskill and Adirondack Mountains. This was the first coherent American art movement, in the sense that the artists involved shared a similar outlook and approach to making art. They depicted panoramic scenes in precise detail, and regarded nature as a spiritual resource.

**Utilitarianism:** the nineteenth-century ethical doctrine that usefulness is the greatest good and that human action should tend to produce the greatest good or happiness for the greatest number of people

\*[Vocabulary definitions from The Maier Museum of Art at Randolph College  
[www.maiermuseum.org/learn/art-and-sol-tours/resources/vocabulary](http://www.maiermuseum.org/learn/art-and-sol-tours/resources/vocabulary)]

**Assessment:**

Students will be assessed according to the social studies' and art teachers' rubrics.

**Check for Understanding:**

The librarian will walk amongst the students to monitor their research progress and to answer any questions.

**Closure:**

The librarian will review the research options available for students through the student book cart, online databases, and selected internet resources. Students will be reminded to cite their sources according to the MLA Reference Card, and that the online databases may be accessed from home. The books will remain on the cart for

overnight checkout until the assignment is due. The art students' work will be displayed in the showcase across from the theater.

At the conclusion of the lesson, a field trip will be planned to the nearby Westmoreland Museum of American Art in Greensburg to view their collection of American landscape paintings.

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### **Pathfinder for “Changes in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Landscapes”**

**Books** have been pulled for you and are on a cart. They include the following:

The Impact of the Industrial Revolution  
The Industrial Revolution  
The Early American Industrial Revolution  
A Sweatshop during the Industrial Revolution  
Growing Up During the Industrial Revolution  
Taking Sides: American History since Reconstruction  
America in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
20<sup>th</sup> Century America  
Concise Dictionary of American History  
American Decades: Primary Documents  
Encyclopedia of American History  
Oxford Companion to American History  
The Annotated Mona Lisa: A Crash Course in Art History from Prehistoric to Post-Modern  
Edward Hopper  
Arts and Humanities Through the Eras  
History of Art  
The Lives of the Painters  
Three Hundred Years of American Painting  
American History in Art  
Art and Life in America  
American Art Analog  
The Artists of America  
McGraw Hill Dictionary of Arts  
Encyclopedia of World Art  
Praeger Encyclopedia of Art  
Britannica Encyclopedia of American Art  
Lives and Works in the Arts  
Encyclopedia of American Art

The following **databases** will be helpful to you:

#### **Gale’s Discovering Collection**

From USCHS website, go to “Student Links”

From “student links” click on “Discovering Collection”

Keyword search: American industrialization, Hudson River School

Bierstadt, Albert; Cole, Thomas; Hopper, Edward; Sheeler, Charles

From home: same as above

## **Online Databases (Continued)**

### **History Reference Center Online**

From USCHS website, go to "Student Links"

From "Student Links" click on "History Reference Center"

Keyword search: American industrialization, Hudson River School  
Bierstadt, Albert; Cole, Thomas; Hopper, Edward; Sheeler, Charles  
From home: same as above

### **JSTOR**

From USCHS website, go to "Student Links"

From "Student Links" click on "JSTOR"

Keyword search: American Industrialization; Hudson River School  
Bierstadt, Albert; Cole, Thomas; Hopper, Edward; Sheeler, Charles  
From home: same as above

### **Points of View**

From USCHS website, go to "Student Links"

From "Student Links" click on "Points of View"

Keyword search: Hudson River School  
Bierstadt, Albert; Cole, Thomas; Hopper, Edward; Sheeler, Charles  
From home: same as above

### **WorldBook Online Advance**

From USCHS website, go to "Student Links"

From "Student Links" click on "Worldbook Online Advanced"

From Keyword search: Hudson River School, Industrial Revolution  
Bierstadt, Albert; Cole, Thomas; Hopper, Edward; Sheeler, Charles  
From home: same as above

### **Biography Reference Bank**

From USCHS website, go to "Student Links"

From "Student Links" click on "POWERLibrary" then "Biography Reference Bank"

Keyword search: Bierstadt, Albert; Cole, Thomas; Hopper, Edward; Sheeler, Charles  
From home: same as above

### **OmniFile Mega**

From USCHS website, go to "Student Links"

From "Student Links" click on "POWERLibrary" then "OmniFile Mega"

From Keyword search: Hudson River School  
Bierstadt, Albert; Cole, Thomas; Hopper, Edward; Sheeler, Charles  
From home: same as above

The following **websites** may be accessed from [www.google.com](http://www.google.com):

### **American Industrialization**

Industrialization of American Society

[www.engr.sjsu.edu/pabacker/industrial.htm](http://www.engr.sjsu.edu/pabacker/industrial.htm) -

Industrialization of the United States

Women and Social Movements in the U.S., 1830-1930 -

[www.westirondequoit.org/ihs/library/indust.htm](http://www.westirondequoit.org/ihs/library/indust.htm) -

The Industrial Revolution's Impact on American Society ...

[www.associatedcontent.com/.../the\\_industrial\\_revolutions\\_impact\\_on.htm](http://www.associatedcontent.com/.../the_industrial_revolutions_impact_on.htm)

### **Hudson River School Painters**

AMERICAN SCENERY: Different Views in Hudson River School ...

[www.wmuseumaa.org/about/getnews.cfm?ID=20](http://www.wmuseumaa.org/about/getnews.cfm?ID=20) -

American Passages - Unit 5. Masculine Heroes: Context Activities

[www.learner.org/amerpass/unit05/context\\_activ-5.html](http://www.learner.org/amerpass/unit05/context_activ-5.html)

Industrialization and Conflict in America: 1840–1875 | Thematic ...

[www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/indu/hd\\_indu.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/indu/hd_indu.htm) -

Art-Tours: Hudson River Valley Painters

[faculty.pittstate.edu/~knichols/arttours.html](http://faculty.pittstate.edu/~knichols/arttours.html) -

Art, Artists & Nature: The Hudson River School History

[www.albanyinstitute.org/.../Hudson%20River%20School/hrs.history.htm](http://www.albanyinstitute.org/.../Hudson%20River%20School/hrs.history.htm)

### **Albert Bierstadt**

Looking Down Yosemite Valley, California, 1865

[picturingamerica.neh.gov/.../PictAmer\\_Resource\\_Book\\_Chapter\\_8A.pdf](http://picturingamerica.neh.gov/.../PictAmer_Resource_Book_Chapter_8A.pdf)

Albert Bierstadt Online

Guide to pictures of works by Albert Bierstadt in art museum sites and image ...

[www.artcyclopedia.com/artists/bierstadt\\_albert.html](http://www.artcyclopedia.com/artists/bierstadt_albert.html)

Note links at the bottom of the article

Birmingham Museum of Art

It was Bierstadt's 1863 overland journey that inspired Looking Down Yosemite Valley, California, of 1865.

[www.tfaoi.com/permc/perm4.htm](http://www.tfaoi.com/permc/perm4.htm) -

### **Thomas Cole**

View from Mount Holyoke (The Oxbow), 1836

[picturingamerica.neh.gov/.../PictAmer\\_Resource\\_Book\\_Chapter\\_5A.pdf](http://picturingamerica.neh.gov/.../PictAmer_Resource_Book_Chapter_5A.pdf)

Thomas Cole: View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts ...

[www.metmuseum.org/toah/ho/10/na/ho\\_08.228.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/ho/10/na/ho_08.228.htm)

Cedar Grove | The Thomas Cole National Historic Site - Main

Home of Thomas Cole, 19th century artist, founder of Hudson River School of landscape painting.

[www.thomascole.org/](http://www.thomascole.org/)

### **Edward Hopper**

House by the Railroad, 1925

[picturingamerica.neh.gov/.../PictAmer\\_Resource\\_Book\\_Chapter\\_16A.pdf](http://picturingamerica.neh.gov/.../PictAmer_Resource_Book_Chapter_16A.pdf)

Edward Hopper: House by the Railroad

"Hopper frequently used a straight, horizontal motif, usually a road or railroad track, to construct the space within the picture..."

[www.artchive.com/artchive/H/hopper/house\\_by\\_rr.jpg.html](http://www.artchive.com/artchive/H/hopper/house_by_rr.jpg.html)

### **Charles Sheeler**

Charles Sheeler's American Landscape (1930) - American Landscape, 1930

[picturingamerica.neh.gov/.../PictAmer\\_Resource\\_Book\\_Chapter\\_15A.pdf](http://picturingamerica.neh.gov/.../PictAmer_Resource_Book_Chapter_15A.pdf)

Charles Sheeler: Across Media

Murals were a popular medium in the 1930s

[www.tfaoi.com/aa/6aa/6aa262.htm](http://www.tfaoi.com/aa/6aa/6aa262.htm)



Please ask a library staff member for any help.