

ACTIVITY 3

AMERICAN PAINTINGS

INTRODUCTION:

Paintings often offer rich portraits of our society in American history. This activity provides an opportunity for students to analyze paintings from several historical periods.

TASK:

In groups of 3 – 4 members, complete the following tasks:

1. Select three (3) paintings that depict themes in American history.



Analyze each example using a Visual Analysis Worksheet:

Visual Analysis Worksheet

http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/collection/australian/painting/education_kit/worksht.html

For each work selected, fill out a chart to organize your notes (See Handout 1).

2. For each painting, write an analytical paragraph for each painting selected. You should explain specifically how the painting illustrates a particular time period in American history.
3. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include:
 - a. *American Progress*
 - b. *Signing of the Constitution*
 - c. *American Gothic*

You may visit the following website for more suggestions:

National Gallery of Art

<http://www.nga.gov/collection/gallery/amer.shtm>

Metropolitan Museum of Art

http://www.metmuseum.org/Works_of_Art/department.asp?dep=2

4. Using responses from Handout 1, you will write a review for each work.
5. Make a presentation of your work to rest of the class.

EVALUATION:

1. Students will be evaluated using the rubrics posted on the curriculum website at <http://szetohistory.tripod.com/regentsunits.htm>. Put all work in the portfolio.

HANDOUTT 1: AMERICAN PAINTINGS

Directions: Using the Internet resources, fill out the chart below.

PAINING	SIGNIFICANCE
1.	
2.	
3.	