

# HISTORIC INSPIRATION

## Overview

Students will analyze works of art as primary sources and create their own works of art inspired by historic investigation and primary source documents.

## National Standards

- VA:Cr1.2.6a. Formulate an artistic investigation of personally relevant content for creating art
- VA:Re.7.1.6a. Identify and interpret works of art or design that reveal how people live around the world and what they value
- VA:Re.7.2.6a. Analyze ways that visual components and cultural associations suggested by images influence ideas, emotions, and actions
- VA:Cn10.1.6a. Generate a collection of ideas reflecting current interests and concerns that could be investigated in art-making
- VA:Cn11.1.6a. Analyze how art reflects changing times, traditions, resources, and cultural uses
- D2.His.12.6-8. Use questions generated about multiple historical sources to identify further areas of inquiry and additional sources
- D3.1.6-8. Gather relevant information from multiple sources while letting the origin, authority, structure, context, and corroborative value of the sources to guide the selection
- vD4.3.6-8. Using print and oral technologies (e.g., posters, essays, letters, debates, speeches, reports, and maps) as well as digital technologies (e.g., Internet, social media, and digital documentary) present adaptations of arguments and explanations on topics of interest to others to reach audiences and venues outside the classroom

## Materials/Works of Art

<https://jenniferbordersart.com/>

<https://www.decontemporary.org/i-hear-america-singing>

Images of works of art by Jennifer Borders

## Discussion

Throughout history, works of art have reflected the issues and values of the people and time in which they were created. We can analyze paintings, drawings, sculptures, and photographs as artifacts to learn more about the people who made and used them. Contemporary artists are often inspired by current and historic events to create works of art connected to their own history and identity. Use the following primary source analysis questions to explore works of art by Jennifer Borders with your students:



## Discussion Continued

Describe and discuss the materials and techniques used for creating the work of art. What images do you recognize? What sources or reference materials has the artist used?

How are the elements of art and the principles of design utilized in the creation of mixed media artwork?

What is a symbol? What symbols do you recognize in the work of art? What do you think they mean?

How do artists use images to represent themes or concepts and convey meaning in a work of art?

## Activities

Select themes or ideas for individual exploration and art-making. Suggested themes include family history, identity, or responses to current events. Students should think about their personal connections to the chosen theme and identify visual elements or images and symbols to convey meaning in their works of art.

Research, select, and analyze primary sources to utilize as inspiration and incorporate in student art making. Suggested sites for historical research include:

<https://www.loc.gov/>

<https://www.archives.gov/>

<https://learninglab.si.edu/>

<http://dehistory.org/>

## Reflection

How are the questions used to investigate primary sources similar to those used when viewing a work of art?

How do works of art throughout history reflect the issues and events of that time period?

How do contemporary artists utilize historic research and primary sources to create works of art?

## Extension

Collaborate across disciplines to explore primary sources connected to language arts, science, math, or performing arts content and respond through art-making.

Utilize the primary source analysis questions to view and discuss student artwork. How do their works of art function as primary sources that document our lives today?

