

Michelangelo “Ceiling Art”

Objective:

Students will learn about Michelangelo’s life and create their own version of the Sistine Chapel by each drawing a scene of a story from the 5th grade social studies curriculum.

Materials

Michelangelo biography sheet and answer key
one “tile” sheet printed on card stock for each student
scene descriptions
colored markers
scissors
masking tape

Procedure:

1. Before the lesson begins, tape one “tile” sheet (printed on card stock) on the bottom of each student’s desk. You may need to first tape the tile to a firm surface such as a student white board, and then tape that surface underneath the desk.
2. Briefly discuss Michelangelo’s life using the attached biographical sheet. Have students try and guess which words go in the blanks.
3. Emphasizing how difficult it must have been for Michelangelo to lie on his back for hours at a time (for almost five years), tell students that they will be creating something similar to the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.
4. Tell students that they are going to help tell a story by drawing a picture. Each student will be responsible for drawing one scene of the story. Remind students how Michelangelo told stories from the Bible using pictures without words, and then inform them that they will be doing the same thing, only their pictures will tell a social studies story. Since Michelangelo painted while on his back, tell the students that they will be doing to same thing as well. Show students a copy of the tile and tell them that there is one taped on the bottom of each one of their desks.
5. Pass out to each student a scene description. You may have to double up, with more than one student per scene description. Tell students that, using markers, they need to depict their scene without using any words. Remind them to fill the entire tile (except for the corners) – no white remaining.
6. When students are finished, have them cut out the squares of their tiles. Then attach the tiles (in sequential order) to the classroom ceiling in order to create your own Sistine Chapel!

Story of Columbus Coming to the New World

Scene 1: Explorers search for a new route to China.

Scene 2: Columbus asks the King of Portugal for money to search for a western route to China. He says no.

Scene 3: Columbus then asks King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain for funding. After much convincing, they agree.

Scene 4: Columbus heads west. His crew gets restless and wants to turn around.

Scene 5: Columbus and his crew reach land in the Bahamas.

Scene 6: Columbus meets Indians.

Scene 7: Columbus brings horses and wheat to the Americas, and takes back to Europe turkeys, corn, and tobacco.

Scene 8: Indians die because of the diseases brought to the Americas by the Spanish explorers.

Story of Cortes and the Aztecs

Scene 1: Cortes comes to Cuba from Spain and becomes a farmer.

Scene 2: Cortes leads an expedition into Mexico.

Scene 3: Moctezuma II, the leader of the Aztecs, hears about the Spaniards coming, so he sends a messenger to give Cortes two gold discs.

Scene 4: Cortes gets the help of other nearby Indian tribes to fight against the Aztecs.

Scene 5: Cortes attacks the Aztec city of Tenochtitlan.

Scene 6: The Aztecs push the Spaniards out of Tenochtitlan.

Scene 7: Cortes gets more soldiers and more Indian help.

Scene 8: Cortes defeats the Aztecs.

Student Scene Descriptions – Christopher Columbus

(Copy and cut into strips)

The Story of Columbus Coming to the New World

Scene 1: Explorers search for a new route to China.

The Story of Columbus Coming to the New World

Scene 2: Columbus asks the King of Portugal for money to search for a western route to China. He says no.

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Scene 3: Columbus then asks King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain for funding. After much convincing, they agree.

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The Story of Columbus Coming to the New World

Scene 5: Columbus and his crew reach land in the Bahamas.

The Story of Columbus Coming to the New World

Scene 6: Columbus meets Indians.

The Story of Columbus Coming to the New World

Scene 7: Columbus brings horses and wheat to the Americas,
and takes back to Europe turkeys, corn, and tobacco.

The Story of Columbus Coming to the New World

Scene 8: Indians die because of the diseases brought to the
Americas by the Spanish explorers.

Student Scene Descriptions – Hernando Cortes and the Aztecs

(Copy and cut into strips)

Story of Cortes and the Aztecs

Scene 1: Cortes comes to Cuba from Spain and becomes a farmer.

Story of Cortes and the Aztecs

Scene 2: Cortes leads an expedition into Mexico.

Story of Cortes and the Aztecs

Scene 3: Moctezuma II, the leader of the Aztecs, hears about the Spaniards coming, so he sends a messenger to give Cortes two gold discs.

Story of Cortes and the Aztecs

Scene 4: Cortes gets the help of other nearby Indian tribes to fight against the Aztecs.

Story of Cortes and the Aztecs

Scene 5: Cortes attacks the Aztec city of Tenochtitlan.

Story of Cortes and the Aztecs

Scene 6: The Aztecs push the Spaniards out of Tenochtitlan.

Story of Cortes and the Aztecs

Scene 7: Cortes gets more soldiers and more Indian help.

Story of Cortes and the Aztecs

Scene 8: Cortes defeats the Aztecs.

Michelangelo

(1475-_____)

Michelangelo was born on _____ 6, in the country of _____. When he was _____ years old, his father placed him in the workshop of a painter in Florence. After about two years, he went on to a school to study _____. When he was about 20 years old, Michelangelo went to _____, where he was able to examine many newly unearthed classical statues and ruins. After a few years, he returned to Florence.

Almost all of Michelangelo's work focused on the theme of _____, and in 1505, the _____ called Michelangelo back to _____ for a special job. The job: paint the _____ of the Sistine Chapel!

In order to do this, Michelangelo had to lie on his _____ and paint for hours each day! He painted pictures of stories from the _____. He started the project in 1508 and finished in _____.

Michelangelo

(1475- 1564)

Michelangelo was born on _____ March _____ 6, in the country of _____ Italy _____. When he was _____ 13 _____ years old, his father placed him in the workshop of a painter in Florence. After about two years, he went on to a school to study _____ sculpture _____. When he was about 20 years old, Michelangelo went to _____ Rome _____, where he was able to examine many newly unearthed classical statues and ruins. After a few years, he returned to Florence.

Almost all of Michelangelo's work focused on the theme of _____ Christianity _____, and in 1505, the _____ Pope _____ called Michelangelo back to _____ Rome _____ for a special job. The job: paint the _____ ceiling _____ of the Sistine Chapel!

In order to do this, Michelangelo had to lie on his _____ back _____ and paint for hours each day! He painted pictures of stories from the _____ Bible _____. He started the project in 1508 and finished in _____ 1512 _____.

