



Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center  
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Web site: <http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac/>

This lesson was created by a teacher participating in a Wisconsin ESEA Improving Teacher Quality grant entitled Inquiry Based Technology-Mediated Teacher Professional Development and Application.

- Title: ARTifacts of Wisconsin's Pre-European cultures
- Submitted by: Robin Hosemann and Andrea Christopherson
- Grade Level: Adaptable fourth through eighth grade
- Subjects: Social Studies, Language Arts/Reading, Art
- Objectives: Students will:
1. Research forms of artistic expression in the four cultures
  2. Create a representation of art from one of the cultures
  3. Create museum information cards
- WI Standards: -Language Arts/Reading A.6.1, A.6.3, A.6.4, B.6.1, B.6.2, B.6.3, C.6.1, C.6.2, C.6.3, D.6.1, D.6.2, F.6.1  
-Social Studies B.6.1, B.6.12
- Duration: Three class periods.
- Materials/Supplies: -Computers with Internet access  
-Variety of art material, such as, plaster of Paris, paint, clay, string, tools for working clay, tag board, charcoal pencils  
-Index cards for museum cards
- Vocabulary: Old Copper Culture, catlinite, sherd, pendant, red ochre, petroglyphs, pictographs, plummet, hematite, obsidian, motif, chert, fluted, effigy, flintknapping
- Background: Teachers need to be familiar with Wisconsin's four pre-European cultural traditions and their attributes.
- Setting the Stage:
1. Pose the question, "What is art?"
  2. Direct students to create an "Art Is..." "Art Isn't..." chart.
  3. Follow with class discussion to come to consensus.

- Procedure:
1. Explain to students that the final product of this lesson will be a gallery of Pre-European art.
  2. Take students to computer lab, access MVAC site, and instruct students to look for examples of artistic examples from all four cultures. Students may find information through pictures or descriptions within the text.
  3. Students will select an artifact they would like to replicate.
  4. Students must find and record information about the raw materials used, the associated culture and time period, and additional information in preparation of creating the museum display card for their object d' art.
  5. In centers, students will be guided through process of replicating their selected artifact. Students will be given two class periods to complete their object and create their museum display card.
- Closure:
- Students will create a gallery of artifacts in groupings according to their culture.
- Evaluation:
1. Student-developed rubric will be used by students to evaluate each others work.
  2. Teachers will evaluate display cards for accuracy.
- Links/Extension:
1. G/T students may create museum advertisements; signs; brochures; or serve as tour guides.
  2. Parents and public will be invited to view displays.
- References:
- MVAC web site at: <http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac/>
  - Digging and Discovery: Wisconsin Archaeology, The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 2000.
  - Digging and Discovery: Wisconsin Archaeology Teacher's Guide and Student Materials, The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 2000.