



Charles Mason: Photographer

GRADE: 2

TIME: 1 hour

Developed by John Lentine, Art Specialist

KIT INCLUDES:

- lesson plan
- vocabulary board
- Charles Mason teaching boards (2 3-panel)
- process boards (5-panel)

MATERIALS:

- 12x18 black and white construction paper
- magazines for images
- charcoal sticks or vines
- tissue paper or “blending stumps”
- pencil
- black crayon
- gluestick
- scissors
- manila envelopes 9x12
- copy machine access



LESSON DESCRIPTION:

Students examine the work of Fairbanks photographer Charles Mason and make a special humorous collage, combining multiple images they unify with charcoal gray tone techniques to simulate black and white photography.

VOCABULARY:

- photographer
- humor
- irony
- collage
- background
- foreground

ART ELEMENTS:

- ☒ Line
- ☒ Shape/Form
- ☐ Color
- ☐ Value
- ☐ Texture
- ☒ Space/Perspective

ART PRINCIPLES:

- ☐ Pattern
- ☐ Rhythm/movement
- ☐ Proportion/Scale
- ☒ Balance
- ☒ Unity
- ☐ Emphasis

CONTENT CONNECTIONS:

Social Studies:
Commenting on societal norms with art
THEMES:
Humor is all around.

OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA: Students will:

1. Examine and specifically identify humor in selected works of photographer Charles Mason.
2. Select at least three diverse images to use in a collage.
3. Unify diverse black and white copied images using charcoal techniques.
4. Cut and glue neatly to create a collage.

PREPARE: The following prep prepares packages for future, as well as present use. Teacher can simply copy images without the envelopes.

1. Select a variety of magazine images and glue them on 8.5 x11” copy paper, fitting several images on a sheet when possible. Copy these sheets maybe 10 times each. Glue 1 copy on 9x12 manila envelope and put rest inside. (see next page)
2. Cut down 12 X 18” paper as follows: black -- 12 X 15”
white -- 12 X 11”

1. Select variety of images.



2. Combine them to fit on sheets of 8.5 x 11" as you can.



3. Glue one of the copies on the back of a 9x12 manila envelope and put the rest of the copies in the envelope.

ENGAGE AND EXPLORE:

Ask your students what the following things have in common:

crayons, colored pencils, clay, a camera, paint.

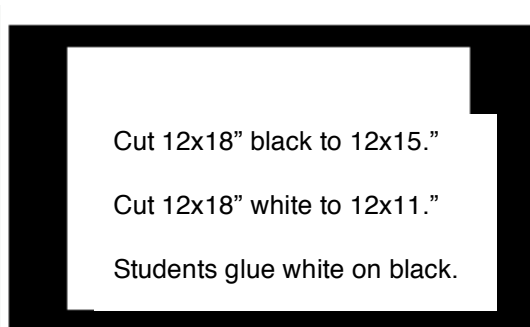
The answer you seek is, "You can make ART with all of them." Now ask which of the group seems a little odd to be included in the group? When the answer comes as "camera" point out that cameras CAN be used to make art. When a person looks through the camera lens with an composing the shot, they are working as an artist. Such a person is a special type of artist called a PHOTOGRAPHER.

(Need biographical info in lesson or attached.)

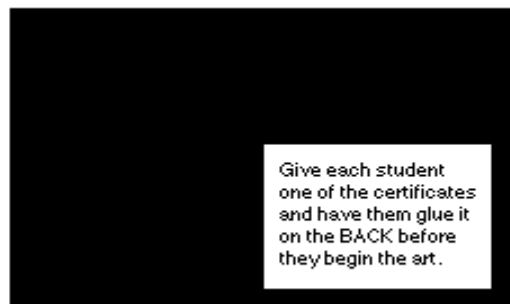
In this lesson, the students will learn about a photographer who lives and works in Alaska. His name is Charles Mason and his biographical material and examples of his work are included on the visual panels in the kit for class discussion before beginning the artwork. After learning about Charles and noting that he likes to work in black and white, and often includes some bit of irony or humor in his work, the students will "take" a photo of their own by making a photo collage and unifying them with charcoal techniques to look like a black and white photograph in the fashion of Charles Mason.

CREATE:

1. Each student gets one black and white paper and glues the white one on top of the black one. ALSO give each student one of the lesson certificates and tell them to glue it on the back.



Front



Back

2. Make sure that all the manila envelopes have inside them at least 10 copies of the photos on the outside. Just lay the envelope on the copier to make copies if you need more. SPREAD the envelopes all over the floor so students can walk around and select the images without unnecessary “traffic jams.”
3. Instruct students to select 3 diverse (explain) images to begin. ***Tell them if they take out the last copy to give you the empty envelope so you can copy more and refill it.***
4. Cut out whatever they want from the three images...



5. Arrange the images on the white paper. Place it in vertical or horizontal format. Try a bunch of different ways. Consider foreground and background in your placement of images. What looks right? What looks funny? What looks best? Glue your favorite choice in place.



6. Using the BLACK CRAYON, add lines to CONNECT everything. Create the illusion of space.



7. Using the CHARCOAL, fill in the white paper with GRAY TONES by pressing the charcoal with different pressure and rubbing it to get different shades of gray, creating the illusion of a black and white photo! Use the tissue or artist's “stump” to blend the charcoal.
8. Write a TITLE for the work on the back side on the certificate. Try something humorous such as “WATCH OUT, DOGGIE!” Display and discuss work or use the following closing activity.

CLOSE:

Give the students time to share their collage with a partner (Pair/Share) or with the whole class depending on how much time you have. If you have them write the title on a separate 3x5 card, you can play a “Match Game.” Which title goes with which collage? Have fun!

Teacher administered assessment tool

DN	OK	UP	Lesson_____ Teacher_____
			Grade_____ Date_____ Number of Students_____
			Using the thumbs up, ok, and down technique, ask your students the following questions and record their answers. (K=knowledge, S=skills, C= creativity, A=attitude, E=engagement)
			1. Did you use humor like Charles Mason in your art? (K)
			2. Did you combine 3 diverse images into your collage? (K,S)
			3. Did you like using charcoal to blend the area around your pictures? (S,A)
			4. Did you use cut and glue neatly on your collage? (S)
			5. Did you add an imaginative touch to your art? (C)
			6. Did you actively listen and follow directions?(A)
			7. Did you do your best during this lesson?(E)

Teacher self-critique

8. My teaching of this lesson:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
needed improvement							was highly successful		

9. What would I do differently next time?

ALIGNMENT:

Alignment of Standards:

Art: A1,3,4. B4,5,6,8. C1,2,4.
Eng/LA: A.

Art: A1,3,4. B4,5,6,8. C1,2,4.

Eng/LA: A.

CREDITS:

Project ARTiculate is supported by the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, the Alaska Arts Education Consortium, and a U.S. Department of Education Development and Dissemination Grant



Charles Mason is a photographer from Fairbanks, Alaska. Photographers are artists that work with a camera. Charles always wanted to be a photographer--as a young child he played with a toy camera and by the age of 10 he worked in a darkroom and developed his own pictures!

Charles always has a camera with him. He says, "There is a photo around every corner. You just have to be ready."

He especially likes photos that make us smile or laugh. He also likes titles that make us curious.

In this art lesson students made a photo collage trying to develop a humorous or ironic scene. They used charcoal to add gray tones to make it more like a black and white photograph. Lastly they titled their art.

Photography Song

(Twinkle, Twinkle tune)

Look real close and you will see

Awesome street photography.
Always keep a camera ready.
Take a photo sure and steady.
You can be a photo WIZ-
Artist like Charles Mason is!

