

The Heart of the Art

Lesson Plan for Middle School and High School Students



Quilt 1, Square 13

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Goals

Students will define Kindertransport.

Students will explain why the Kindertransport was necessary.

Students will describe how the Kindertransport came into being, who was involved, how it was financed, what problems had to be overcome and what happened to the children.

Students will discuss the reasons only England participated in the Kindertransport.

Students will be able to list current world conflicts, discuss their origins and find the involved countries on the map.

Students will describe and use specific examples to show what happens to children of war today physically, psychologically and geographically.

Students will list and explain some of the ways people use art to express themselves, to record an event, to protest an event or idea, to create a monument or memorial.

Materials

Pictures of a selection of Kindertransport memory quilt squares made from the website or from the book

Map of the world

Newspapers and news magazines

Examples of art as it is used in everyday life can be accessed on the Books, Videos & Website link where you will find Art and Society.

Procedures

Divide the class into small groups.

Give each group pictures of several of the squares of the Kindertransport quilt along with the explanations that go with them.

Ask students what they think these squares are about and what they think happened.

Have students form a hypothesis that explains the quilt squares and the events that might have inspired them.

Put these hypotheses and ideas on the board. Have students look at them and come up with one idea explaining the origin of the quilt and the event on which it is based.

Tell students the story of the Kindertransport, give them a book or article to read which tells the story or show a video of the story.

Questions for discussion:

Why didn't more countries, including ours, offer to take the children?

What does this story say about the power of one person?

What must the parents have felt as they made the decision to send their children away?

How did being a child on the Kindertransport affect life at the time and in the future?

What happened to these children after the war?

What happened to the children who were not on the transport?

How is this story relevant today?

Show the quilt again.

Ask students why the quilt was made. Why would someone want to contribute a square? Does the quilt have anything to say to us today?

Discuss the role of art in our every day lives: expression, protest, record of events, people and feelings. If there is time, show examples of art through the ages that gives us a feeling for what was going on and how people felt about it.

Bring out a world map.

Pass out newspapers and magazines and give students time to look at them.

Ask students to identify conflicts around the world today.

Use the map to point out the areas involved in conflicts.

Ask students if they know who is fighting and why.

Discuss what happens to the children in these conflicts.

Assign students specific conflicts to research.

Have students present their research to the class as an individual oral report, a group report, a power point presentation or any other way they think will be informative and effective.

When the presentations are completed ask the class to find commonalities in the conflicts that were presented.

Fight for power

Religious conflict

Fight for land or resources

Fight based on old scores to settle

Fight about the haves and the have nots

The exploitation, neglect, and lost childhood of the children

The living conditions of the children before, during and after the conflict

Tell students to pick a current conflict and think about what it means to them, how it makes them feel and what it means for our world and our lives. Tell them to create a piece of art that expresses the way they feel about the conflict or records the event or protests the event. This could be a collage, a drawing or painting, a song or musical composition, a dance, a play or a picture book.

Ask students what happens to the children in these modern day conflicts.