

Fifth Grade

Title: “Across the Continent” Lithograph

Artist: Currier and Ives (Nathaniel c. 1913-1888) (James M. 1824-1895)

EALR'S: Arts

- 1.1.1- Understands art concepts and vocabulary, line, texture, color, value, shapes- geometric shapes (triangle, diamond, square....) and organic shapes, (curvy, natural look, flowing).
- 1.2-Understands art concepts and vocabulary, principals of organization. (Balance, proportion, movement.....).
- 1.3-Understands and applies art styles from various artists' cultures and times.
- 1.4- Applies audience skills in a variety of art settings and performances.
- 2.1- Applies a creative process in the arts.
- 2.3- Applies a responding process to an arts presentation.
- 3.1- Uses the arts to express and present ideas and feeling.
- 3.2- Uses the arts to communicate for a specific purpose.
- 3.3- Develops personal aesthetic criteria to communicate artistic choices.
- 4.2- Demonstrates and analyzes the connections between the arts and other content areas.
- 4.3- Understands how the arts impact lifelong choices.
- 4.4- Understand that the arts shape and reflect culture and history.

Text: Lithographs often celebrated important historical events of the day. Currier and Ives were like our television newsmen and newspaper reporters today. Lithographs were used tin magazines and these two men created thousands of such illustrations together. They were reporting to people on the home front and Eastern seaboard about the experiences of the “Wild West”. Here we see an historical even, the first train to run from New York to San Francisco on a thorough run.

Questions:

1. What action do you see? How are the people in the painting reacting to the train going by?
2. What perspective techniques have the artists used to portray this scene so realistically? (Objects closest to us are larger, more detailed).
3. What details add to the realism and excitement? (Detailed log houses, smoke, Indians on horseback, men in boats on the river, men working on the uncompleted railroad lines, engineer, conductor, passengers on the train, men chopping logs, etc.).
4. What was their purpose in making these lithographs? Is it unusual for two men to work on the same painting?