

Second Grade

Title: "Sun River War Party" (1923)

Artist: Charles M. Russell (1865-1926) American

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: Charles M. Russell preserved the history and traditions of a West that wa quickly vanishing. He was America's only true cowboy artist. This painting is a fine example of his meticulous skill with composition and detail. Accurate details of the Indian war costumes and the Montana landscape and sky add to the realism. In this composition tints of color are used to create a light spacious feeling. The contrast of this ground covering and background coloring with the Indians, their horses and decorations emphasizes the power and drama of the subjects. The strong, vertical lines of the riders and their ponies create feelings of power, strength, and pride. The arrangement of this composition is classical. The eye is drawn to the white Pinto pony in the foreground. He is the apex of a triangular wedge formed by the others and their ponies in the background.

Questions:

1. Are the horses going fast? How do you know that? What kinds of lines do you see?
2. What is the focal point? How did the artist arrange the horses?
3. Why does the artist use such light colors for this painting? (It accents the open spaciousness of the Montana plains and sets the mood).
4. How do things look that are closer to you? Farther away?