

Country: Mexico/United States



The Chicano Movement Lesson Plan 2022-2023

The Chicano Movement, Grades: 8th - College

Description: Learn about vibrant Chicano/a movement that started a wave of demands for equality within the Chicano youth of Denver. This movement also started an artistic renaissance that inspired social justice change through art. Through the workshop, students will come to learn about the importance of their voices and how a movement in the Denver community impacted Chicano art and history. Students will create a creative protest sign depicting a social justice topic of their choice. Students will also be encouraged to voice their passionate opinions through an artistic action.

Objectives: This workshop aims to introduce a broad overview of the Chicano movement and the artwork born of this movement. Its goals are to inform students about the events that occurred in Denver as part of the movement, identify prominent Chicano artists (poets, songwriters, visual artists), and describe some of the characteristics of Chicano art.

Art Component: Students will work on a collaborative thought experiment resulting in an installation piece that explores themes of identity, civil rights, and nationalism. Given a prompted situation, the students will use a variety of materials to solve a problem. The resulting installation piece will express their chosen message, which will be photographed for students to keep.

Exit Ticket/Deliverables: Students will be able to identify when the Chicano Movement started (in the 1960s) and explain the reasons behind the movement. Students will also be able to describe the main characteristics of the subsequent art movement and how the themes expressed in Chicano art served to further the goals of the sociocultural movement.

Vocabulary: art movement, assimilation, Chicano/a, civil rights, discrimination, disenfranchisement, displacement, dispossession, identity, pachuco/a, rasquache/rasquachismo, treaty

The Chicano Movement Vocabulary Definitions

Art movement - (n) the tendency or style in art with a specific common philosophy or goal, followed by a group of artists during a specific time (such as a few months, years or decades) or, at least, with the heyday of the movement defined within a number of years. The art movement is especially important in modern art, which saw numerous movements under its

umbrella. An art movement typically refers to tendencies in visual art, novel ideas and architecture, and sometimes literature.

Assimilation - (n) the process of taking in and fully understanding information or ideas. In this context (anthropology/sociology as ethnic or cultural assimilation) it is the process whereby individuals

or groups of differing ethnic heritage are absorbed into the dominant culture of a society. This process involves taking on the traits of the dominant culture to such a degree that the assimilating group becomes socially indistinguishable from other members of the society.

Chicano/a - (adj) identifier for people of Mexican descent born in the United States. The term came into popular use by Mexican Americans as a symbol of pride during the Chicano Movement of the 1960s.

Chicanismo - Chicanismo is the ideology behind the Chicano movement. It is an ideology based on a number of important factors that helped shape a social uprising in order to fight for the liberties of Mexican-Americans. By employing Cultural Affirmation, they used their current culture as well as ancestral ties to Mesoamerica to create an ideology for all Chicanos.

Civil Rights - (n) guarantees of equal social opportunity and equal protection under the law, regardless of race, religion, or other personal characteristics.

Discrimination - (n) the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or things, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex. The recognition and understanding of the difference between one thing and another.

Disenfranchisement - (n) the state of being deprived of a right or privilege, especially the right to vote.

Displacement - (n) the removal of something from its usual place or position by something which then occupies that place or position. The forcing of people away from the area or country where they live.

Dispossession - (n) the action of depriving someone of land, property, or other possessions.

Identity - (n) who a person is, or the qualities of a person or group that make them different from others. The reputation, characteristics, etc. of a person or organization that makes the public think about them in a particular way.

Pachuco/a - (n) refers to a Mexican American youth subculture. This subculture arose from the social issues Mexican American youth experienced during the later decades of the 19th century and early decades of the 20th century.

Rasquache/Rasquachismo - (n) a term of Mesoamerican Nahuatl origin which initially had a negative connotation in Mexico as being an attitude that was lower class, impoverished, and having bad taste. This was later redefined by the Mexican and Chicano art movement, Rasquachismo, which transformed social and economic instabilities into a style and a positive creative attitude. The artists in the Rasquachismo movement often used the most basic, simplest, quickest, and crudest means necessary to create desired expressions, in essence, creating the most from the least.

Treaty - (n) a formally concluded and ratified agreement between countries.

