OBJECTIVES

- Relate abstract art to traditional (western) art by comparing the elements and principles of design shared by both.
- Determine the visual characteristics that define non-representational art (as distinct from representational art) by comparing and contrasting representational imagery with non-representational imagery.
- Place abstract art in its time period by relating it to the current events at the time.

STANDARDS

Visual and Performing Arts:
- 1.1 The Creative Process
- 1.2 History of the Arts and Culture
- 1.3 Performance
- 1.4 Aesthetic Responses & Critique

Methodologies

Technology and 21st Century Skills:
- 8.1 Educational Technology
- 8.2 Technology Education, Engineering, and Design
- 9.1 21st-Century Life & Career Skills
- 9.2 Personal Financial Literacy
- 9.3 Career Awareness, Exploration, and Preparation

ILLUSTRATIONS

P. Mondrian, 1921
INTRODUCTION

Abstract Art (show some examples) – What’s the big deal? What’s so special about a blank canvas? Why is a painting of red, yellow, blue squares worth millions? We must understand the social context of the time in order to appreciate the art. Art – all art – can’t be fully appreciated outside of its context.

PROCEDURE

- Distribute handout and define representational/non-rep according to handout.
- Refer to list of elements and principles of design, ask students to locate example of each in a representational painting, and then do the same for a non-rep painting.
- Explain that abstract art (non-rep) has all the same formal relationships, but without the story behind it – no people, no places, no things – just art.
- Ask students what was happening in America first half of the 1900’s
- Present “Abstract Art” presentation
- Discuss how abstract art is different from previous art and how it relates to current events of that time.

CLOSURE

- Review representational/non-representational
- Review elements and principles of design.

ASSESSMENT

- Place certain works of abstract art on a timeline.
- Define representational/non-representational and explain the difference in art terms.

SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

MATERIALS

- Abstract Art handout
- Examples of various types of art from circa 1900
- Large list of the elements and principles of design
- Abstract Art ppt