Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Frameworks, World History I Learning Standards

WHI.29 Describe the origins and development of the Renaissance, including the influence and accomplishments of Machiavelli, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Shakespeare, and Johannes Gutenburg. (H)

Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for ELA:
Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects, Grades 9-10

1. Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
   a. Introduce precise claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that establishes clear relationships among the claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

Description: This classroom activity seeks to show da Vinci’s influence in the world of Renaissance portraiture, specifically female portraits. Students will look at the various Renaissance portraits to determine how women were typically portrayed and the purpose of these female portraits during that time. After examining several portraits around the time of Leonardo, including some of his own works, students will answer questions regarding their observations to gather a better understanding of how portraiture changed during the Renaissance period after Leonardo.
School and Teacher Programs 2014-2015
Classroom Activities
Portraits of Women in the Renaissance

Filippo Lippi, Woman with a Man at a Window, c. 1438/1444

Domenico Ghirlandaio, Giovanna degli Albizzi Tornabuoni, c.1488/1490
School and Teacher Programs 2014-2015
Classroom Activities
Portraits of Women in the Renaissance

Sebastian Mainardi, Portrait of a Lady, c.1460-1513

Antonio Pollaiuolo, Portrait of a Girl, c.1467-1470
School and Teacher Programs 2014-2015
Classroom Activities
Leonardo da Vinci: *Bella e Brutto*, The Idea of Beauty
Portraits of Women in the Renaissance

Antonio and Piero del Pollaiuolo,
*Portrait of a Lady*, c.1460-1465
Classroom Activities

Leonardo da Vinci: *Bella e Brutto*, The Idea of Beauty

Portraits of Women in the Renaissance

Sandro Botticelli, *Woman at a Window*, c.1470/1475

Agnolo Bronzino, *Portrait of a Lady*, c.1533
School and Teacher Programs 2014-2015
Classroom Activities
Portraits of Women in the Renaissance

Leonardo da Vinci, Ginevra de’ Benci, c.1474/1478

Piero di Cosimo, Simonetta Vespucci, c.1480-1490
Leonardo da Vinci: *Bella e Brutto*, The Idea of Beauty

Portraits of Women in the Renaissance

*Raphael, Portrait of a Woman with a Unicorn*, c.1506

*Agnolo Bronzino, Portrait of Lucrezia Panciatichi*, c.1540
Leonardo da Vinci: *Bella e Brutto*, The Idea of Beauty
Portraits of Women in the Renaissance

Short-Answer Response Questions

1) What similarities exist between the first 5 portraits, which were done in the old style, presented above? Differences?
2) Leonardo’s portrait, *Ginevra de’ Menci*, started a new trend in Renaissance portraiture that took some time to take hold. Why do you think this is? What makes this portrait different from its predecessors? Use evidence from what you have previously learned and what you see in the portraits to support your answer.
3) How did the portraits constructed later in the time period reflect this new style that da Vinci introduced to portrait artists?

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4) Why do you think this style caught on? Could you make an argument as to why this newer style is preferable to the older style?

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School and Teacher Programs 2014-2015
Classroom Activities
Portraits of Women in the Renaissance

Resources

Masters, Rachel D., "The Portraiture of Women During the Italian Renaissance" (2013). Honors Theses, Paper 118
http://aquila.usm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1170&context=honors_theses

Images acquired from these links:

1. National Gallery of Art
http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/exhibitions/2001/ginevra.html

2. Blog of an Art Admirer

3. Image of the Mona Lisa
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mona_Lisa