

# Unit 06: The History of Photography

Content Area: **English Language Arts**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**  
Length: **3-4 Weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Brief Summary of Unit

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Students will be introduced to the history of photography and the significant people who have contributed to the new art form. Also contemporary photographers and current trends in the medium will be explored. They will be able to identify specific factors that have influenced photographers' works. Students will select a photographer, photographic style or movement to research in depth. Their findings will be presented as a research paper and oral presentation utilizing the technology in the classroom.

## Transfer

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- • Relate themes of historic significance to today.
- • See patterns in image making.
- • See the effects of historical artists on today's photographic images.

## Essential Questions

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- • How does understanding formal elements of composition help when making a comparative analysis of photographic styles?
- • What are the key terms related to the history of photography?
- • What factors influence the work of photographers?
- • What factors influence/ed the development of the photographic medium?
- • What photographic techniques, styles and artists are significant to the history of photography?
- • Why is studying the history of photography valuable to the contemporary photographer?

## Essential Understandings

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- • Knowledge of the formal elements of design contribute to a successful comparative analysis.
- • The future of photography as an art form is based on knowledge of its past and present.
- • The study of the evolution of photography has value and meaning to the contemporary photographer.

## Students Will Know

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- • How past and contemporary photographic techniques, styles and artists have impacted the history of photography.

- • How to make a comparative analysis of at least two photographic styles.
- • Specific factors and events that have influenced photographers' works.
- • The key terms related to the history of photography.

## **Students Will Be Skilled At**

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- • Recognizing different types of photographic processes throughout history.
- • Recognizing the works of notable photographers.
- • Seeing comparisons between photographic styles.

## **Evidence/Performance Tasks**

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- • Complete rubric.
- • Descriptive and analytical comparison between two different photographers or styles.
- • Participate in class discussions.
- • Read textbook chapters and additional specified articles relevant to history of photography.
- • Research photographic artist, technique or photographic art movement and present findings to class in multi-media presentation.
- • Share contemporary articles and museum happenings related to photography for class discussion.

## **Learning Plan**

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- • Class discussion and participation.
- • Class discussion: "Why is the study of the history of photography valuable?"
- • Descriptive and analytical comparison between two different styles of art.
- • Initial visit to school library for development of topic.
- • Introduction and assignment of research paper and oral presentation.
- • On-going assignment of article for current events board with follow-up discussion.
- • Presentation of history of photography and photographic movements chronologically: including prints, PowerPoint, DVD, videos and Internet sources. Areas to be covered:
  - The First Camera
  - The Permanent Image
  - Heliography
  - The Daguerreotype
  - The Calotype
  - The origins of Color Photography
  - The Wet-Collodion Process
  - Roll Film
  - Advances in Color Photography
  - Instant Photography
  - Directions and Movements in Photography
  - Early Twentieth Century Photography
  - Movements in Modern Photography
  - Photography and the Visual Age
- • Read textbook chapter on the history of photography.
- • Research, development, presentation, and evaluation of research project.

## **Materials**

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- Computer, Whiteboard, document camera and projector
- Handouts
- PowerPoint
- Reference books: *The Photographic Eye*, Michael F. O'Brien & Norman Sibley, Davis Publications, Inc., Worcester, Massachusetts, 1995. *Photography In Focus*, Jerry Burchfield, Mark Jacobs and Ken Kodra, NTC Publishing Group, Lincolnwood, Illinois, 1997. *Dictionary of Contemporary Photography*, Leslie Stroebel and Tockel, Morgan & Morgan Publications, 1997. *The Visual Experience*, Jack Hobbs and Richard Salome, Davis Publications, Inc., Worcester, Massachusetts, 1995.
- Student examples
- Videos: •      Contacts •      Art 21 • Andy Goldsworthy: Rivers and Tides

## **Suggested Strategies for Modifications**

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- Hands on activities to support unit objectives.
- Individualized instruction.
- Mini lessons in addition to large group instruction.
- Multi-media presentations.
- Peer critique of presentations.
- Use of rubric as self-evaluation tool.
- Videos to enhance instruction where needed.
- Visual Aids and writing samples.