Unit 2: The Evolution of Photography

Content Area: **Fine Arts**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**
Length: **2 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Brief Summary of Unit

Unit 2: The Evolution of Photography

Students will be introduced through lecture, discussion, multi-media presentation and selected text readings the history of the photographic process. They will come to understand that photography was not discovered but evolved over years of use and innovation. Students will also familiarize themselves with the key figures that made photography possible and their specific contribution to the photographic medium will be studied and discussed.

Revision Date: July 2025 - Samantha Berk

Essential Questions

- How has photography as a form of communication changed over time?
- How has photography as a medium changed since its inception?
- How did photography evolve from early experiments to the modern photographic process we use today?
- What role did technological advancements play in the development of photography?
- Who are the key figures in the history of photography, and how did their innovations shape the medium?

Essential Understandings

- Photography is an ever-evolving medium that has gone through significant changes, driven by both technological advancements and individual innovation.
- Key figures in photography contributed in various ways, from the invention of the camera to the development of new photographic processes, changing how images are captured and shared.
- Understanding the history of photography allows students to appreciate the advancements and innovations that have shaped contemporary photographic techniques.
- new technologies in the form of digital imaging have changed the face of photography and revolutionized the medium.
- photography has evolved over time both technologically and aesthetically.

Students Will Know

- The evolution of photographic processes, including early techniques like the daguerreotype, albumen prints, tintypes, and the development of color photography.
- The key figures in the history of photography (e.g., Joseph Nicéphore Niépce, Louis Daguerre, George Eastman) and their contributions.
- How technological innovations in lenses, chemicals, and film have shaped the photographic process.
- The historical context of photography and its impact on art, society, and communication.

- the key figures in the development of photography.
- the significant technological developments to the field of photography.

Evidence/Performance Tasks

Fine Arts students demonstrate differentiated proficiency according to their ability to answer the essential questions through formative and summative assessments. Evidence of progression may be demonstrated in divergent ways through the Artistic Process of Creating, Presenting/Producing, Connecting, and Responding.

Tasks will include:

- Preview essential questions
- Meaningfully and appropriately participate in class critique and discussions
- Complete class projects including weekly critique assignments
- Complete self-assessment rubrics
- Participate in assessment discussions with teacher
- Complete final exam

- answer the essential questions.
- outline history of photography based on text reading.
- research facts on key figure in photography to contribute to discussion.
- work in groups and list all facts they know pertaining to photographic history.
- write a one-page paper responding to the following prompt related to the unit: Who would you consider the father of photography: Louis Daguerre, William Henry Fox Talbot, or Frederick Scott Archer? Support your position utilizing information and understanding you have gained through your study of the history of photography.

Learning Plan

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- Preview the essential questions and connect to learning throughout the unit.

- Describe the major milestones in the evolution of photography.
- Identify key figures in photography history and explain their contributions.
- Analyze the role of technological advancements in shaping photographic processes.
- Compare early photographic techniques with modern digital processes.
- Discuss the societal and artistic impact of photography throughout history.

Suggested Actives:

- Camera Obscura & the Birth of Photography
    - Students explore the scientific principles behind the camera obscura through a multimedia presentation and create simple pinhole viewers to experience early image projection firsthand.
- Timeline of Photographic Innovations
    - In groups, students research major milestones in the history of photography and key inventors, then create a visual timeline showing the evolution from the first photo to the digital age.
- Inventors & Innovators Research Project
    - Students select a key figure in photography history (e.g., Daguerre, Talbot, Eastman, etc.), conduct research using selected texts, and present a short slideshow on their contributions.
- Photographic Processes Through the Ages
    - Students examine how photographic methods evolved (daguerreotype, calotype, tintype, film, digital) through video clips, sample images, and class discussion, comparing the pros and cons of each.
- Comparing Past to Present: Photo Analysis Activity
    - Students analyze historical photographs and compare them to modern images, discussing shifts in technology, composition, and purpose, then reflect in writing on how the medium has changed over time.

- Preview the essential questions and connect to learning throughout the unit.
- Through lecture, PowerPoint presentation, and class discussion key figures in evolution of photography will be introduced.
- Working in groups, students will list all facts they know pertaining to photographic history.

Materials

The materials used in this course allow for integration of a variety of instructional, supplemental, and intervention materials that support student learners at all levels in the school and home environments.

Associated web content and media sources are infused into the unit as applicable and available.

Digital Cameras, Sketchbook, Various Pencils, Sharpies, Markers, Various Papers, Various Erasers, Mirrors, Blending Sticks, Charcoal, Graphite, Sharpeners, Colored Pencils, Oil Pastel, Chalk Pastels, YouTube Videos, Value Scales, magazines, glue, scissors, Watercolor, Watercolor paper, paint brush, ink, printing materials, chromebooks, ipads, Paint, Color Wheels, Drawing Pen, Rulers

Websites:

- History of Photography Overview
  Comprehensive timeline and explanations of major photographic milestones from early inventions to digital photography.
  Website: https://www.britannica.com/art/photography

- Camera Obscura and Early Photography
  Interactive explanation and history of camera obscura principles, including DIY pinhole camera guides.
  Website: https://www.scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk/objects-and-stories/what-camera-obscura

- Famous Photographers and Inventors
  Biographies and contributions of key figures like Daguerre, Talbot, Eastman, with multimedia resources.
  Website: https://www.getty.edu/art/collection/artists/photography

- Evolution of Photographic Processes
  Detailed descriptions and comparisons of historical photographic methods (daguerreotype, calotype, tintype, film, digital).
  Website: https://www.photographyhistory.org/

- Photographic Impact and Analysis
  Articles and tools for analyzing the societal and artistic effects of photography, including historical vs. modern image comparisons.
  Website: https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/phgr/hd_phgr.htm

Suggested Strategies for Modifications

Suggested Strategies for Modifications:

This link includes content specific accommodations and modifications for all populations:

Fine Arts Accommodations & Modifications

- additional time on task
- alternative outcome options
- assessment based on individual development in the area of study
- audio tape of instruction
- cooperative learning groups
- handouts of notes, procedures, processes, diagrams, etc.
- images and visual aids
- one-to-one instruction and assistance
- preferential seating
- reading material modified to student level
- revised techniques, use of tools and media in hands-on activity
- study partners
- testing materials appropriate to student level