

## New York People and Places

Students explore objects on view in the Albany Institute's galleries to learn about the lives of people with varied and diverse backgrounds who live in our community, the places where people work, where people live and the ways in which people interact.

New York State Standards:

Elementary

The Visual Arts – Standards 1, 2, 3, 4

Social Studies – Standard 1, 3

ELA – Standards 1, 3, 4

### Pre Visit Lessons

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For Grades 2 –5

#### Learning Outcomes:

##### Students will:

Understand outstanding characteristics found in different people and how it affects them.

Create a portrait of an important person in their life and a landscape of where they live.

Understand the difference between a landscape and portrait.

#### Teacher Planning:

**Time required:** 45 - 60 minutes (can be finished for homework)

**Materials/resources:** Paper, pencils, markers, paint, brushes

**Technology needed:** None

#### Ask:

Think about their favorite person or hero. Are they famous all over the world? How many people know their hero? Do you think other people have the same hero as they do?

Discuss with the students what characteristics make someone great. Are those the characteristics you would find in a hero?

Create a list on the blackboard, from the student's suggestions about positive and negative human characteristics. Let the students absorb the words for a few minutes. What characteristics found on the blackboard does their hero possess? Would they give their hero any more special abilities?

**Activity 1:** Draw a portrait of your hero.

Include visual information about:

What kind of person they are?

Where they are from?

What they do?

Do they help people?

What do they look like? Are they tall? Small? Etc.

Next, create a drawing of where they live. What kind of place would your hero live in?

An apartment? A house? A mansion? A mobile home? A hotel?

What color would it be?

How many floors in the building? Are there stairs or an elevator?

Are animals allowed?

Is there a yard? Anything in the yard?

How many windows?

Is there a garage? A driveway? A mailbox? A sidewalk? Any plants or trees?

Have each student present their two drawings to the class. Each should explain why they picked this person as your hero and how they try to emulate their behavior.

**Assessment:** Students may be evaluated on understanding, implementation and participation of the activity. Use of imagination and quality of drawing can also be considered.

**New York Curriculum Alignment:**

Elementary

The Visual Arts - Standards 1, 2, 3, 4

Social Studies – Standards 1, 3

ELA – Standards 1, 3, 4

**Post Visit Lesson**

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For Grades 2 –5

**Learning outcomes:****Students will:**

Think about “Who they are” and “What makes them like that?”

Express ideas in a non-direct style.

Describe characteristics through words and images.

**Teacher planning:**

**Time required:** 45 – 60 minutes (can be continued for a homework assignment)

**Materials/resources:** Paper (for draft copies and High Quality cotton rag paper for final copies), Fine point drawing pens, Colored pencils, Tea and a sink (only if the students would like to create an old-looking letter).

**Technology Needed:** none

**Preparation:** Directions for tea staining paper:

Have each student fold all 4 sides of their paper 1 inch from the edge, creating a crease. Then, tear the excess paper away making a torn, old look. To create an even tear, use the edge of a desk or ruler to along the crease.

Next, fill a shallow tub with warm water and tea bags. You can stain several papers at once. To create a darker stain, leave the paper submerged for a longer time.

People are remembered through art, writings and historical occurrences.

How would you like to be remembered 100 years from now?

**Activity:** Write a letter to a close friend or family member that hints at the kind of person you are. You can allude to personal interests, favorite foods, movies, subject in school, your demeanor (attitude) towards life, etc. you can also include drawings in the letter describing your surroundings, a favorite memory and even yourself.

Have the students create a first draft. Instead of the teacher making corrections, let the students first trade papers and make correction on their peer’s work. From those corrections, a second draft can be created and the teacher can edit for the final draft. Next the students, on good paper, can create the descriptive letter, outlining who they are and important moments in their lives, with drawings or designs, whatever each student feels will emphasize the point of the letter.

**Assessment:** Students may be evaluated on understanding, implementation and participation of the activity. Writing quality, penmanship and imagination can also be evaluated.

**New York Curriculum Alignment:**

Elementary

The Visual Arts - Standards 1, 2, 3, 4

Social Studies – Standards 1, 3

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## WEB RESOURCES

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### Basic Information

#### [Historic Albany](#)

This site is to introduce children and adults to the people of colonial Albany. The numerous amount of links takes you through a complete overview of historic Albany and the population.

#### **Terms and Symbolism**

#### [ArtLex Visual Arts Dictionary](#)

An online dictionary of more than 3,600 terms used in discussing art and visual culture. Images, quotations, pronunciation notes and cross references are also included.

#### [Art Hot Links](#)

A comprehensive listing of links to museum websites, virtual galleries, artists and teacher resources.

### New York People and Places

#### [Vintage Views of New York](#)

Choose from a variety of cities and towns in New York State to view drawings and famous people.

#### [Dean Street Excavation](#)

Learn about an excavation of Dean Street right here in Albany. Read about Captain Stewart Dean and view objects, maps and a timeline describing the excavation and life from 1500 to today.

#### [Cross Roads & Cross Rivers](#)

Stories and images about the diverse inhabitants of New York State during the 1600 to 1800s.

#### [Find a Grave](#)

Who were some well known people living in New York State? Explore the countless names and short biographical information.

### Teacher Resources

#### [Lesson Plans Page](#)

“Lesson Plans Page” offers free suggested lesson plans posted by teachers across the country. Search lesson plans by subject matter and grade level.

#### [Kidworld Keypals](#)

“Kidworld” and “Penpal Box” allow individual students to email students from other countries. Simply use the mouse to click on the name of a potential pen pal and an email window appears. Write a letter, click “send” and your greetings will be forwarded to the pen pal you have chosen.

### [KinderGarden](#)

Provides useful information for teachers to encourage gardening in the classroom. Have students experience one profession from colonial times.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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