Madison Public Schools

Philosophy - Unit 3 - Aesthetics

Unit Focus
Aesthetics is an exploration of how to define beauty in both art and the wider world. Each philosophical approach has its own interpretation of what is beautiful. Is that tree beautiful because of the fruit it bears, because of its classic symmetry, or because Charlie Brown chose it instead of those at the store? Beginning with the ancient Greek approach of creating criteria for evaluating beauty students will then extend their investigation of cultural perspectives worldwide. As a final challenge, students will find a way to recognize/portray something that's beautiful in ways that are unexpected.

STAGE 1: DESIRED RESULTS – KEY UNDERSTANDINGS

ESTABLISHED GOALS	TRANSFER
C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards *Social Studies: 10* *921845 Dimension 1. Developing Questions & PLANNING INQUIRIES* *921846 Constructing Compelling Questions* *921847 INDIVIDUALLY AND WITH OTHERS, STUDENTS CONSTRUCT COMPELLING QUESTIONS, AND ...* • D1.2.9-12. Explain points of agreement and disagreement experts have about interpretations and applications of disciplinary concepts and ideas associated with a compelling question. *921854 Determining Helpful Sources* *921855 INDIVIDUALLY AND WITH OTHERS, STUDENTS ...* • D1.5.9-12. Determine the kinds of sources that will be helpful in answering compelling and supporting questions, taking into consideration multiple points of view represented in the sources, the types of sources available, and the potential uses of the sources. *921950 Dimension 3. Evaluating Sources & USING EVIDENCE* *921955 Developing Claims and Using Evidence* *921956 INDIVIDUALLY AND WITH OTHERS, STUDENTS...* • D3.3.9-12. Identify evidence that draws information directly and substantively from multiple sources to detect inconsistencies in evidence in order to revise or strengthen claims. *921959 Dimension 4. Communicating Conclusions & Taking INFORMED ACTION* *921960 Communicating Conclusions* *921961 INDIVIDUALLY AND WITH OTHERS, STUDENTS USE*	T1 Respectfully and responsibly work with others through the exchange and evaluation of ideas to achieve a common objective. T2 Develop and communicate an informed argument/explanation using illustrative details and examples based on audience and purpose. T3 Analyze how geography impacts people and people impact geography.

MEANING	
UNDERSTANDINGS	**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS**
U1 Standards of beauty are influenced by cultural and historical contexts U2 Philosophers don't value things based on opinion, but based on reasoned, logical ideas	Q1 What is beauty? Q2 How do we objectively evaluate beauty? Q3 What makes something stay beautiful over time? Q4 Is there one standard ideal of beauty or is it culturally relative?

ACQUISITION OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL	
KNOWLEDGE	**SKILLS**
K1 Various cultural approaches to appreciating aesthetics (Greek origins, Western, Eastern, African, contemporary, etc.)	S1 Identify the main characteristics of aesthetics in Classical Greeks Philosophy. S2 Identify and Compare various cultural approaches to

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WRITING, VISUALIZING, AND SPEAKING TO... • D4.3.9-12. Present adaptations of arguments and explanations that feature evocative ideas and perspectives on issues and topics to reach a range of audiences and venues outside the classroom using print and oral technologies (e.g., posters, essays, letters, debates, speeches, reports, and maps) and digital technologies (e.g., Internet, social media, and digital documentary). **Student Growth and Development 21st Century Capacities Matrix** *Critical Thinking* • Analyzing: Students will be able to examine information/data/evidence to make inferences and identify possible underlying assumptions, patterns, and relationships. *Collaboration/Communication* • Collective Intelligence: Students will be able to work respectfully and responsibly with others, exchanging and evaluating ideas to achieve a common objective.	K2 Gaining an understanding of the distinction between objective and subjective (or relativist) conclusions in aesthetics.	aesthetics. S3 Respectfully sharing and debating conflicting approaches to aesthetics.