Howard Carter

Lesson Plan: Exploring Historical Artifacts and Archaeology

Objective:

Students will learn about the role of artists in historical documentation before the advent of photography, explore the significance of archaeology in understanding ancient cultures, and engage in discussions on the ethical considerations of artifact repatriation.

Duration:

Five 50-minute class periods

Materials:

Copies of the provided text

Art supplies (clay, paper, paint)

Computers with internet access for research

Projector for presentations

Day 1: Introduction to Historical Art and Archaeology

Activities:

Reading and Discussion (30 min):

Read the provided text aloud.

Discuss how the narrator's father influenced his interest in art and the role of Lady Amherst in his career.

Vocabulary Matching (20 min):

Students match vocabulary words from the text with their definitions to ensure understanding of key concepts discussed.

Day 2: The Role of Artists and Archaeologists

Activities:

Research on Ancient Art Documentation (30 min):

Students research the significance of artists like the narrator and his father in documenting historical artifacts before the advent of photography.

Prepare a short presentation or report on their findings.

Artifact Creation (20 min):

Students create their own “ancient artifact” using clay, paper, or digital tools. Write an imaginative backstory for the artifact as if it had just been discovered.

Day 3: The Life of an Archaeologist

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Activities:

Diary Entry Writing (50 min):

Students write a diary entry as if they were part of an archaeological expedition in Egypt, describing a day on the site, including their "discoveries," challenges, and reflections on the significance of their work.

Day 4: Ethical Considerations in Archaeology

Activities:

Debate Preparation (25 min):

Introduction to the debate topic: Should artifacts from ancient cultures be returned to their original countries?

Students are divided into groups to gather arguments for both sides of the debate.

Debate (25 min):

Conduct the debate, allowing each group to present their arguments, considering aspects such as cultural heritage, historical context, conservation, and international laws.

Day 5: Reflection and Discussion

Activities:

Group Discussions (50 min):

Organize a series of discussions on various topics:

How do the roles of artists and archaeologists overlap and differ in their contributions to history?

Reflect on the narrator's feelings towards his legacy and the implications of his diagnosis at the end of his life.

Discuss the impacts of returning artifacts on international relations and cultural heritage.

Evaluation:

Participation in discussions and debates.

Creativity and historical accuracy in artifact creation.

Insightfulness and historical context in diary entries.

Understanding and articulation of ethical considerations in artifact repatriation.

This lesson plan aims to give students a comprehensive understanding of the interplay between art, archaeology, and ethics in historical documentation and cultural preservation, fostering a nuanced appreciation of past civilizations and current debates surrounding cultural artifacts.