



Mingling with Monet/ Old North Bridge

Grade 5

Social Studies/Visual Art

Social Studies: Standard 2: Students will understand the chronology and significance of key events leading to self-government.

Objective 2a Plot a time line of the key events of the Revolutionary War.

Visual Art Standard 5.V.C.1:

Combine ideas to generate an innovative idea for art-making.

Objective: After studying about the battles of Lexington and Concord, students will create their own North Bridge in the style of a Monet painting,

Time: 60 Minutes

Equipment and Materials needed:

Book: *Let It Begin Here* by Dennis Brindell Fradin

Each student will need a copy of Ralph Waldo Emerson's poem Old Concord Hymn

Picture of Claude Monet's Old North Bridge

Cardstock

Masking tape or Blue painter's tape

Foam Paint brushes (enough for each student to have 1)

Cups with water

Blue, green, yellow paint (washable) or watercolor

Gray, purple, pink paint

Lesson Outline:

1. Read the book **Let it Begin Here!** by Dennis Brindell Fradin about the battles of Lexington and Concord. Discuss the battles and what happened there.
2. Give students a copy of the poem Old Concord Hymn by Ralph Waldo Emerson and discuss why it was written the way it was. What does it tell us about the events of the war?

3. During the next Art block, introduce students to the work of Claude Monet. In particular, show them images of this bridge scene with water lilies. Talk about his artistic style and choice of subject. Discuss what they like and don't like about his artwork, using agreed upon rules of discussion. Remind students that they should be constructive in their praise and criticism.
4. Complete the following art project where students create their own Monet style bridges, reflecting on their feelings about the North Bridge from Lexington and Concord.
 - a. Using white cardstock, have students tape the outline of a bridge with masking/painting tape. I had students use small sections in order to get more of an arch to their bridges. I also suggested they use their pant leg to take a bit of the stickiness off the tape so it won't rip the paper as easily at the end of the project.
 - b. Once all projects are taped, give each student a foam paintbrush and a paper plate with blue, green, and yellow washable paint. Students mix the paint colors and daub on the paint, covering the entire paper, including the masking tape. Below the bridge should be more blue- green; above the bridge should be more green-yellow. You may want to project an image of one of Monet's bridges to give students a guide.
 - c. Once the paint has dried, students CAREFULLY remove the tape from their paper, revealing the bridge.
 - d. Finally, students add shading to the bridge using gray paint (I just mixed white and black paint). They should also add flowers (water lilies) to the water below the bridge using pink and purple paint.