

Emerging Visions

Middle School Educator's Guide

1. Your Roots

Challenge:

Create an artwork that shows your history, your roots.

Questions:

Where did you come from?
How did you get here?
What is your family's history?
How have time and place affected you?

Initiating Activities:

["Chair Swap"](#) ice breaker

Media:

Tunnel books
Collage (digital or analog)
Monoprints
Maps

Artists & Inspiration:

[Maya Lin](#)
[Kehinde Wiley](#)
[Mark Bradford](#)
[Frida Kahlo](#)

2. What if you were someone else?

Challenge:

Create an artwork inspired by a person from the 1810 census.

Questions:

What is the census?
What is a centroid?
What was life like in 1810?
What do you imagine small-town life to be like?

Initiating Activities:

Introduce the census. Conduct a census in the classroom.
Show Larson's work.
Do a centroid "balancing" activity.
Give each student an 1810 identity.

Media:

Silhouettes
Shadow puppets
Comic books
Assemblage

Artists & Inspiration:

[Manual Cinema](#)
[Cindy Sherman](#)
[March](#) (graphic novel set)
[Joseph Cornell](#)

3. Back in Time

Challenge:

Create an artwork that adds a modern twist to an antique craft.

Variations:

- Utilitarian vs. aesthetic
- Render a useful item useless

Questions:

What would life be like without technology?

Compare high art with craft.

How can we change the meaning of an object?

Initiating Activities:

Take a field trip to the Waterford Fair (Oct 3-5)

Hold a craft fair in the classroom (students bring examples of crafts OR teacher sets up stations with craft-making activities)

Media:

Basket-weaving

Tin types (alternative photo methods)

Furniture, tools, utensils

Pottery, clay

Artists & Inspiration:

[Teri Greeves](#)

[Marcel Duchamp](#)

[Aganetha Dyck](#)

[Crochet Coral Reef](#)

[Dali's lobster phone](#)

4. Overlooked Lives

Challenge:

Create an artwork inspired by the lives overlooked by the census, currently or historically.

Variations:

- Give voice to silenced peoples (people counted but not allowed to vote)
- Voting districts, representation, gerrymandering

Questions:

Why do we conduct the census?
Who gets left out?
How do centroid towns represent our country?
How accurate is the census?

Media:

Sculpture
Video game design
Block printing, printmaking
Wearable art

Initiating Activities:

Look at maps of voting districts
Discuss Three-Fifths Compromise
Debate: the fairness and accuracy of the census
Read articles about citizenship; prison population

Artists & Inspiration:

[Luba Lukova](#)

[Ai Weiwei](#)

[Brian Jungen](#)

[Kara Walker](#) (**Caution!** Much of her work is upsetting and not appropriate to show.)

5. How Far We've Come

Challenge:

Create an artwork that changes over time.

Variations:

- Static vs. dynamic
- History of place
- Evolution, transformation
- Romanticism vs. reality of the past

Questions:

Why does the past matter?
Why are documentary projects important?
Why do we preserve the past?

Initiating Activities:

["Change" ice breaker activities](#)

Media:

Lenticular photos ([beginner](#) | [advanced](#))
Stop motion animation
Altered books
Environmental art

Artists & Inspiration:

[Andy Goldsworthy](#)
[Jason DeCaires Taylor](#)
[Nobuhiro Nakanishi](#)
[Sam Falk / Tony Cenicola photos](#)

6. We are HERE

Challenge:

Create a collaborative artwork based on community.

Questions:

What connections can you make with Larson's project?

How do you think the people of Waterford feel about the project?

How can we represent ourselves?

How do we learn about the past?

Initiating Activities:

Exquisite corpse ([beginner](#) | [advanced](#))

Media:

Quiltmaking

Sculpture, installation

Printmaking

Animation

Artists & Inspiration:

[Faith Ringgold](#) (**Caution!** Some of her work is upsetting and not appropriate to show.)

[Kathryn Clark](#) (foreclosure quilts)

[Nam June Paik](#)