Iowa History Connections Lesson Plan

Name and school: Cindy Baldwin, ICCSD; Iowa City, IA

Lesson grade level: Art K-6

Lesson title: Family Portraits

Essential Question: What is a Family?

Lesson abstract: We are all part of a family. Families are configured in different ways with many factors affecting them: divorce, adoption, extended families, ethnic diversity, non-traditional care givers, etc. In this unit, students learn that there are different kinds of families and no one structure is better than another. They discover that all types of families love and care for each other.

Learning Objectives:
Students will:
1. Learn what a Family Portrait is and see a variety of examples thru Art.
2. Discuss their family structures; family traditions and history
3. Become familiar with the family diversity of their peers and others in the world.
4. Create a Family Portrait.

Iowa Core Standards:
Students will:
* Compare similarities and differences among families.
* Identify how individuals learn from the family.
* Show ways in which family provides the basic needs of love, food, shelter, clothing, companionship, and protection
* Show that every family type has worth and is unique.

Materials/Equipment/Websites:
* Art supplies
  * Iowa Pathways, Iowa Historical Society
  * Heritage Teaching Resources from the Smithsonian

Detailed Procedures/Questions/Activities:
The students will:
1. See many examples of Family Portraits through a variety of art mediums.
2. See online, digital photography of “multicultural families” in Iowa history
3. Turn and share 3 things they know about their own family with peers next to them.
4. Cut out paper suitcase template to write story/memories.
5. Interview their families. (Family Profile survey) (collect artifacts)
6. Locate, with assistance, the country of their ancestors on a map. (Brainstorm modes of travel)
7. Sketch outline with pencil of family members. Consider background and setting and arrangement of portrait.
8. Making choices of media to color and finish family portrait artwork.

Assessment(s):
- Deeper understanding of families (similarities and differences) through verbal, written and visual information sharing.
- Share student’s written and visual work through exhibition in the halls at school.
- Invite families to come see their student’s work.