

Teachers Guide: Lesson 1. Osage & French Fur Trading Mural

Same activities for Grades 3-5 as 6-12 except where noted below in red:

Introduction - Discussion Questions - answer from existing knowledge:

- What is public art? What is a mural? Why do we have them?

(then project large-screen image of Meeting in Missouri mural)

- What is happening in this mural?
- What groups of people do you see - who are they?
- What can we learn from how are they dressed?
- What is on the ground between them?
- Where do think this scene is taking place?
- What do you see on the land in the background?
- What is the colored stripe in the background?

Pass out **OSAGE AND FRENCH TRADING MURAL** fact sheet - two versions: Grades 3-5 and 6-12

As info is read (as a class or in groups), have students point out features of the “Meeting in Missouri” mural as each is discussed.

Grades 3-5: Teacher read-aloud these descriptions of the early Osage (these are included in text of 6-12 Fact sheet)

By author Washington Irving (1832):

“[The Osage are] stately fellows; stern and simple in garb and aspect. They wore no ornaments; their dress consisted merely of blankets, leathern leggings and moccasins. Their heads were bare; their hair was cropped close, except a bristling ridge on the top, like the crest of a helmet, with a long scalp-lock hanging behind. They had fine Roman countenances, and broad, deep chests; and, as they generally wore their blankets wrapped round their loins, so as to leave the bust and arms bare, they looked like so many noble bronze figures. The Osages are the finest looking Indians I have ever seen in the West.”

By artist George Catlin (1845): “the tallest race of men in North America either red or white skin, many of them six and a half, and others seven feet.”

(Grades 6-12) Also read p. 4 background on the Osage Trail Sculpture - note bolded sections (info in review Qs). - not on 3-5 Fact Sheet

Have students complete the “Review MATCHING Questions”: reviewing content of murals and sculpture - two versions: Grades 3-5 and 6-12