

Lesson One: Layers in My Family

Objectives:

1. Students will be able to identify members of their close and extended families.
2. Students will be able to describe roles played by specific individuals in their families.
3. Students will be able to describe representations of families in artworks.

Arizona Visual Arts Standard

CREATE: Creative Process Artworlds: PO 101, 201 & 301: Contribute to a discussion about ideas for his or her own artwork.

Preparation

Preview *Layers in My Family* PowerPoint, *Family Matters Preview* PowerPoints and *Questor Questions: Uncover Layers of Family History* pdf

Consider whether you will bring your own family photos, old school photos and family keepsakes or heirlooms (such as birth or wedding announcements; sport, theme park or theater tickets; favorite childhood toy; trophy or other award; piece of jewelry, etc.) to use as examples of objects that remind you of people, events or values in your family.

Decide whether you will use *Questor Questions Uncover Layers of Family History* handout to extend class discussion of work by Stephen Marc.

Resources

[Layers in My Family PowerPoint](#)

[Family Matters Preview PowerPoint](#)

[Questor Questions: Uncover Layers of Family History pdf](#)

OPTIONAL: photos and other meaningful family objects

Activities

Unit Preview: Use the *Layers in My Family* PowerPoint (slides 1-5) to introduce the theme in life: “We are all influenced by our families.” Ask students to volunteer to list people or animals whom they consider to be members of their families. Explain that families can vary, may include near and distant blood relatives, may include others formally or informally adopted as family members and include people who have passed on but are still remembered.

Use the *Layers in My Family* PowerPoint (slides 6-8) to introduce the theme in art: “Artworks can reveal complex and simple truths about families.” Ask students to volunteer roles played by people in their families, such as organizer, playmate, teaser, helper, teacher, buddy, supporter, tradition keeper, worker, storyteller, etc. Explain that every family is different and each member of a family plays some role within it.

Guided Practice: Explain that some artists use photos of family members, other images or symbols to say something about families. If you choose, show examples of such photos, images or objects from your family or ask students to describe meaningful people, images or objects from their own families.

Ask students to carefully observe and identify people and other objects that Stephen Marc included in his digital photo montage to show the Sugg family (*Layers in My Family* slide 6). You may choose to extend this discussion using *Questor Questions Uncover Layers of Family History* handout.

Practice and Assessment: Display artworks reproduced in the *Family Matters Preview* PowerPoint. Ask students to identify people shown in artworks and what each is doing and then to speculate about various roles each person might play within a family. Additionally, ask students to look carefully for other items shown in the artworks that help the viewer get a fuller idea about a family, for example, clothing, furniture, jewelry or rooms.

Introduce the key questions students will be working with if they complete the Family Layers project in lesson three of this unit:

1. How do artists use rhythm to unify a complex composition?
2. How do artists use analogous (harmonious) colors to unify a complex composition?
3. How do artists express layers of meaning by juxtaposing (combining) images and symbols?

Vocabulary

ancestors
family roles
digital photo montage

Extension Activities

WRITING: Students interview older members of their families and write up family memories to share with others in their immediate or more distant families. See [Arizona Landscapes Exhibition Unit: Oral History Interview](#) (pdf) to instructions from family interview in *Arizona Landscape* history lesson.

Assessment Checklist

- _____ Students will be able to identify members of their close and extended families.
(Discussion during *Layers in My Family* PowerPoint presentation.)
- _____ Students will be able to describe roles played by specific individuals in their families.
(Discussion during *Layers in My Family* PowerPoint presentation.)
- _____ Students will be able to describe representations of families in artworks.
(Discussion during Family Matters Preview PowerPoint presentation and discussion of artworks in *Family Matters Preview* PowerPoint.)