

Lesson One: How We Adapt

Objective:

Students will be able to explain how a picture or other object was adapted from a story.

Arizona Visual Arts Standards

RELATE: Artworlds: PO 102, 202, & 302: Discuss how artworks are used to communicate, stories, ideas, and emotions.

RELATE: Quality: PO 101, 202, & 301: Contribute to a discussion about why artworks have been valued within the context of the culture in which they were made.

Common Core Standards [Artwork can be understood as "text".]

ELA-Literacy.RST.6-8.4: Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to grades 6–8 texts and topics.

ELA-Literacy.RST.9-10.4: Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to grades 9–10 texts and topics.

Preparation

Preview *How We Adapt* PowerPoint and look through the *Page to Screen* exhibition preview.

Resources

[How We Adapt PowerPoint](#)

[Page to Screen Exhibition Preview Powerpoint](#)

Samples of objects adapted for new purposes or situations, such as a coffee mug adapted as a pencil holder or a brick used as a doorstop.

Samples of consumer products, such as action figures, T-shirts, puzzles, drink cups, or board games inspired by movies like *Star Wars*, *Lord of the Ring*, *The Little Mermaid* or *Batman*.

Samples of culturally diverse traditional decorations, such as Day of the Dead figures or paper cutouts; red and gold Chinese good luck objects; Mardi Gras masks and beads; Fourth of July red and white decorations and images of American heroes, etc.

Activities

Unit Preview: Introduce the theme in life, that "innovative people can adapt, that is, they can make changes to fit new situations" by discussing how people adapt, for example to different climates, to economic changes, or to new living situations and also how people adapt objects for new uses, like adapting an old cardboard box into a play castle or an old coffee pot into a planter.

Introduce the theme in art, that “People in the arts use their imaginations to adapt ideas from one art form in another, such as a book to a movie or a poem to words for a song” by asking students to list movies adapted from comic books, fairy tales or novels and to list consumer products, like action figures, T-shirts, puzzles, drink cups and board games adapted from movies (*Star Wars*, *Lord of the Ring*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Batman*).

Introduce the key questions students will be working with in the unit:

1. What ideas can I get for my art from another art?
2. What subject matter is represented (shown or described) in the artwork?
3. How can I use foreground and background to tell a story?

Definition and Examples: Display How We Adapt PowerPoint, slides 1-12 to define what it means to "adapt" and to stimulate students' discussion of a variety of types of adaptation.

- Slide 2 identifies three ways we adapt.
- Slides 3-5 show adaptation in nature.
- Slide 6 asks students to think about adaptations they have made in their lives.
- Slides 7-10 show objects adapted for new uses.
- Slide 11 shows one art form adapted to another (architecture to pop-up book)
- Slide 12 asks students to consider how one character (Santa Claus) can be adapted to a variety of art forms.

Example of Cultural Adaptation: Display slides 13-19:

- Slides 13 & 14 explains Dutch adaptations of Saint Nikolas.
- Slides 15-17 show how a traditional Swedish character was adapted into a Santa-Claus-like character over time.
- Slide 18 asks students to compare and contrast adaptations of Santa Claus.
- Slide 19 explains how a Buddhist story of compassion was adapted as a sculpture.

Transfer from Students' Prior Experience: Display slide 20:

- Slide 20 asks students to describe any pictures or figures adapted from traditional stories that they might have in their homes.

Guided Practice and Assessment: Display slide 21:

- Slide 21 asks students to demonstrate their understanding of adaptation with a familiar fairytale.

Transfer to Art Making: Display slide 22:

- Slide 22 introduces an art project focused on adapting a short story into a computer image.

Transfer to Exhibition: Display slide 23:

- Slide 23 invited students to visit the *Page to Screen* exhibition at the Tempe Center for the Arts. NOTE: Some works in the exhibition are also viewable on the *Page to Screen Exhibition Preview* PowerPoint.

Art Vocabulary

adapt, adaptation
art form
character
image

Other Vocabulary

evaporate
gnome
palo verde tree
tompt
carbon dioxide
ancestor
oxygen
Buddhist/Buddhism
photosynthesis
compassion

Extension Activities

Invite students to bring to class any objects (toys, games, pictures, figurines, clothing, etc.) adapted from a TV show or movie and explain how their objects are adaptations.

Assessment Checklist

__ Students will be able to explain how a picture, figurine or other object was adapted from a story.
(Discussion of slide 21 of How We Adapt PowerPoint)