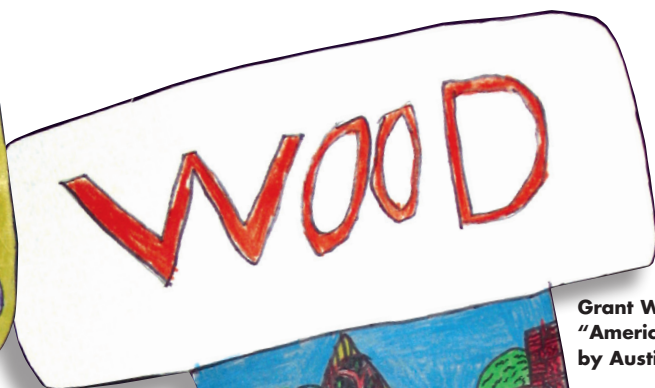


Georgia O'Keeffe's  
"Cow Skull,"  
by Cassidy.

# Stockings for the Artists

by Kim Goebel



Grant Wood's  
"American Gothic,"  
by Austin.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

### Upper-elementary students will ...

- recognize several famous paintings and be able to name the artists who painted them.
- use problem-solving and critical-thinking skills.
- draw bubble letters and fit them in an enclosed area of the stocking.
- apply the elements and principles of design effectively in their work.

## ARTIST AND PAINTING SUGGESTIONS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • Georgia O'Keeffe:<br><i>Cow's Skull</i>                     | • Edvard Munch:<br><i>The Scream</i>       |
| • Leonardo da Vinci:<br><i>Mona Lisa</i>                      | • Henri Matisse:<br><i>The Goldfish</i>    |
| • Pierre-Auguste Renoir:<br><i>Girl with the Watering Can</i> | • Grant Wood:<br><i>American Gothic</i>    |
| • Vincent van Gogh:<br><i>Sunflowers and Starry Night</i>     | • Henri Rousseau:<br><i>Sleeping Gypsy</i> |

## MATERIALS

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| • 12" x 18" drawing paper    | • Permanent markers                         |
| • Tag-board stocking example | • Crayola® Twistables® or other color media |
| • Pencils                    |   |
| • Scissors                   |   |



Leonardo Da Vinci's  
"Mona Lisa,"  
by Crystal.



Henri Matisse's  
"Goldfish,"  
by Abbie.



Vincent van Gogh's  
"Starry Night,"  
by Maryanne.

During each of the holiday seasons, I try to come up with a lesson that will incorporate art history and have a holiday theme. One recent winter-holiday season, I was thumbing through a catalog and saw a picture of note cards that had famous artists' stockings hanging on a mantel. This triggered an idea for my fifth-grade classes.

Out of 12" x 18" tag board, I made an example that resembled a large stocking and displayed it for the class so they had an idea of how large they needed to draw their stockings. Students then drew their stockings on 12" x 18" white drawing paper, making them as large as possible so they filled the paper.

Students then decided for which famous artist they could make a stocking. I hung reproductions of famous paintings along with the names of the artists as examples for them to choose from. When selections were made, they wrote their artists' name in bubble letters in the top portion of the stocking.

We talked about each of the paintings and the students were able to identify the artist before we continued on.

Next, they were instructed to draw, with pencil, a large image of the famous painting on the rest of the stocking, making it so big it wouldn't all fit on the page.

The second step was to go over the pencil lines with black permanent marker to emphasize the drawing and help it stand out. We used Crayola® Twistables® to color because they made the drawings look like they were painted instead of colored, but any color media—crayons, oil pastels, markers—could also be used. Students were given the choice of coloring just like the famous painting or using different color choices.

The students enjoyed the project, became familiar with a number of artists and their work, and received many compliments when the stockings were hung in the main school hallway. We were able to incorporate art history along with a holiday theme, and create a project that was a success for all.

Kim Goebel is an art teacher for K-5 at Sugar Creek Elementary in Crawfordsville, Indiana.