



Destination Denver Lesson 2

Grades 6th - 8th



Lesson 2

Immerse

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Summary:

Our journey continues with the discovery of what makes a city unique. We will explore a few Denver neighborhoods, looking at the history, culture, music and art that make each neighborhood unique. Finish the lesson by creating murals, practicing rhythms and dances.

Essential Question:

How can art and music change a neighborhood?

Learning Standards:

- Students understand and can explain why different neighborhoods and communities are important.
- Students understand the concept of region is developed through an examination of similarities and differences in places and communities.
- Students understand how people in the past influence the development and interaction of different communities or regions.
- Students can identify four neighborhoods of Denver and explain their cultural importance.
- Students can identify at least three different genres of music and can communicate similarities and differences between them.
- Students can demonstrate how working collaboratively can enhance the artistic process.
- Students can interpret meaning and evaluate works of visual art and design recognizing diverse points of view.

Materials Needed:

- Large white paper
- Coloring utensils
- Writing utensils
- Computer/projector/speaker

Repertoire Selection:

- One O'Clock Jump - Count Basie
- Son De La Negra - Mexican Folk Song
- Starburst - Jessie Montgomery
- Symphony No. 5 - Ludwig van Beethoven

Inter-Department Collaborations:

Visual Arts

Social Studies

Literacy

Physical Education



Lesson 2

Visual Arts Activity

Directions:

Step 1: Learn about RiNo and the Santa Fe Art District with the Quick Facts pages. Explore a few of the murals of RiNo using this [LINK](#) silently. Then, while listening to Jessie Montgomery's Starburst, re-look at the murals. Repeat the same steps while exploring the art of the Santa Fe Art District using the images from this simple Google search [LINK](#). Repeat the same images while listening to Son de la Negra.

Class Discussion:

Did adding music help you understand the art better?
How did it affect the way you looked at the art?

Step 2: Working individually, have students choose one mural from the one of the neighborhoods they found most interesting and have them fill out the Mural Analysis Worksheet.

Step 3: Working individually or in groups, have students create a mural that could go on one of their neighborhood's buildings.

Student Prompting Questions:

Do you have a theme in mind?
Are each of your ideas represented? (Only if working in groups)
Are you going to have music, people, animals, food, etc. as the main idea?
What is the name of your mural?
Where would the mural go in your neighborhood?

Rhythm Activity

Directions:

Learn about the Denver Performing Arts Complex with the Quick Facts page. Listen to the first 4 -5 minutes of Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, Movement 1 and fill out the Active Listening Worksheet.
Have the students gather into a circle.

Prompting Question:

What did the beginning of the symphony sound like to you?

Talk about rhythms and what they are. Explain to the class that the rhythmic theme at the beginning of the symphony represents fate knocking on Beethoven's door and talk about how rhythms are important in writing music

Have them use their instruments, clap or pat to practice the opening rhythm together of the symphony. Then, practice rhythms on the Rhythm Worksheet by clapping, patting, or with their instruments.

Finally, have the students create their own rhythm and do a call and response around the classroom for each rhythm.

Bonus Activity:

One of the dances in the 1920's was called The Charleston and was most likely seen in Five Points during that time. Learn to dance the Charleston with this simple video tutorial and try dancing to Count Basie's One O'Clock Jump once you get the hang of it. Watch the video [HERE](#)

**** Have students create their own dance to represent their neighborhood.**



Resources

Denver Neighborhood Map

Here is an up close look at where the Denver neighborhoods we are exploring are located.



Want to explore more Denver neighborhoods? Click [HERE](#)



Quick Facts

Five Points Neighborhood

Five Points is one of Denver's oldest neighborhoods and was established in the 1860's.

The name Five Points is in reference to the intersection of Denver's Washington Street, 27th Street, 26th Avenue, and Welton Street.

Five Points was known as the "Harlem of the West" because most of it was mainly populated by African-Americans. This was because many laws in Colorado at the time kept them from living in other neighborhoods.

The 1920's - 1950's was the most successful time for Five Points, especially around the Welton Corridor. It was home to dentists, attorneys, doctors, schools, fire and police departments and businesses that catered to the Black community.

Welton Street was known for having top performers in jazz such as Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, Nat King Cole, Count Basie, Dizzy Gillespie and others play in the many clubs.

Five Points is home to two internationally-known annual celebrations; the Five Points Jazz Festival and the Juneteenth Music Festival.

Let's listen to some of the music one would hear when walking around the Five Points Neighborhood. [HERE](#) is Count Basie's One O' Clock Jump.



Quick Facts

RiNo Art District

RiNo is short for River North.

RiNo Art District was named in 2005 by two artists named Jill Hadley Hooper and Tracy Weil.

RiNo is actually an arts nonprofit organization, not necessarily a neighborhood, that brings programs to the area to work directly with people of color in the community who work toward social justice, equity, and anti-racism.

The RiNo Art District includes the historical neighborhoods of Globeville, Elyria-Swansea, Five Points and Cole.

Walking around the RiNo Art District means you get to see some really cool murals painted by a variety of local and non-local artists.

Discover the various murals in RiNo by taking a virtual tour [HERE](#) while listening to Jessie Montgomery's Starburst [HERE](#).



Quick Facts

Santa Fe Neighborhood

Like RiNo, Santa Fe is also an art district located in the La Alma Lincoln Park Neighborhood.

This area is one of Denver's oldest neighborhoods with the majority of it's buildings and houses built before the 1900's.

It was originally home to many Native American tribes including the Cheyenne, Arapahoe and Utes. When the train yard moved in, the neighborhood changed, eventually becoming home to the Latin culture.

The Santa Fe strip is home to University of Denver's Center for Visual Art, Colorado Ballet, Su Teatro Theatre, Museo de las Americas, and many local art galleries.

Santa Fe Art District is well know for it's First Friday Art Walk where people can experience various artists, galleries, theatres, culture and community.

Watch a video of a group dancing to Son de la Negra, a traditional folk song of Mexico [HERE](#).



Quick Facts

Denver Performing Arts Complex

Theatre producer, actress, philanthropist, and Chairman of The Denver Post, Helen Bonfils wanted to bring the performing arts to Denver like what is seen in New York.

In the early 1970's Helen teamed up with Donald Seawell, a Broadway lawyer and producer, and together began producing new American theatre works.

After Helen died in 1972, Seawell sat on the corner of 14th and Curtis and drew out the Denver Center for the Performing Arts on an envelope.

In 1977, the Denver Center for the Performing Arts is created by Donald Seawell with funding from the Helen G. Bonfils Foundation.

On March 4, 1978, Boettcher Concert Hall opens and is home to the Denver Symphony Orchestra, now known as your Colorado Symphony, and was the U.S's first in the round concert hall.

By 1979, the Denver Municipal Auditorium, now the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, had been renovated, two cabaret spaces had been added and the Helen G. Bonfils Theatre Complex opened with four theatres.

A popular sight at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts is the tall 60 foot sculpture of two people dancing called "Dancers" located in Sculpture Park. It was created in 2003 by Jonathan Borofsky. See it [HERE](#)

Mural Analysis

Select a mural from the RiNo or Santa Fe Art District and answer the following questions.

Artwork

Title:

Artist:

Year Made:

Describe

Describe what you see in the artwork.

Examine

What elements of art do you see?

What principles of design do you see?

Interpret

What is this artwork about?

What song would you pair with this artwork?

Critique

What do you like about the artwork?

What do you dislike about the artwork?

Lesson 2

Active Listening



Listen to Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 5.

Write down three instruments you hear when listening?

1

2

3

What is the mood of the music? _____

Does the tempo change? If yes, how?

What kind of dynamics do you hear?

Draw or write what the music makes you see or feel.

How does Beethoven use the opening rhythm to express his feelings?



Lesson 2

Rhythm Activity

Directions:

Clap and say each rhythm as a class, then play with rhythm sticks or instruments (if using.)



1 2 3 4
Five Points Five Points



1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
Ri-No Ri-No Ri-No Ri-No



1 & 2 & 3 4
Des-tin-a-tion Den-ver



1 2 Rest 4 &
Five Points SHH! Ri-No



1 & 2 3 & 4
San-ta Fe San-ta Fe

Create Your Own Rhythm

