

Instructional Unit Title: Personal Geographies

Visual Arts
7th Grade

The teacher may bring in examples of personal geographies so that students can see how locations, cultures, and traditions inform artists work.

The teacher may lead the students through guided discussion and brainstorming session around family histories (e.g., country of family origin, past/present) so that students can begin exploring their unique cultural heritage and family timelines.



The teacher may show images that represent artists' cultural/personal backgrounds so that students can begin to understand how social and historical experiences can inform artistic expression.

The teacher may provide a diverse selection of different artists' personal geographies so that students can begin exploring different intentions and/or purposes of personal geography.

The teacher may review what constitutes a viable plan for personal geography creation so that students can internalize the important considerations artists make as they finalize their projects.

The teacher may use sample environmental settings (e.g., city, country, urban, rural) so that students can begin exploring how the environment is an important element to their personal story telling.



The teacher may provide guiding questions (e.g., "What is your primary cultural influence?", "What's the most significant event in your life?") so that students can begin exploring ways to orient a personal geography.



PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: As an artist you have been invited to create an artwork depicting your personal geography to be exhibited at The Contemporary Museum of Art in your town. Your personal geography must include a self-portrait, illustrate your personal history, portray emotions, and reflect your culture and heritage through symbols and the expressive features and characteristics of art.

This unit was authored by a team of Colorado educators. The unit is intended to support teachers, schools, and districts as they make their own local decisions around the best instructional plans and practices for all students. To see the entire instructional unit sample with possible learning experiences, resources, differentiation, and assessments visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/instructionalunitsamples>.