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Abstract

Learning American history through Visual Images

My project involves the use of paintings from the 18th and 19th centuries to help expand students' understanding of American history. I showed eight paintings that are tied to the course material in my history class, U.S. history, from the origins through Reconstruction. I then had the students answer questions about the paintings: what do you learn about history from this painting; how does it affirm what you have learned from the lectures and readings; how does it expand and challenge what you have learned. After collecting these questionnaires throughout the semester, I hope to see an increased sophistication in their analyses of the paintings as well as a greater knowledge of American history.