

Teaching Korea - The genre paintings by Kim Hong-do

Teaching Suggestions

RETRIEVAL PRACTICE

Why not create some short multi-choice quizzes to test what students can recall about the content they have just learned about? Create a quick test of 8, 10, 12 or 20 questions. Here are three examples:

1. In total, how many genre paintings of daily life of ordinary people are included in the album by Kim Hong-do?

a) 25

b) 50

c) 75

2. Where are the genre paintings of Kim Hong-do kept?

a) The British Museum in London

b) The Louvre in Paris

c) The National Museum of Korea in Seoul

3. When was Kim Hong-do born?

a) 1645

b) 1745

c) 1845

WHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD?

It is believed that Kim Hong-do painted the pictures of daily life between 1785 and 1795.

Ask pupils to research important events from this time. This could have a Korean focus, or it could be expanded to give a global perspective.

You might want to widen the period of study to the whole of the later-eighteenth century.

For example, in France, this is the time of the French Revolution (1789), and in Europe this era is widely considered as transitional between the Age of Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution.

Over in America, this was a time of revolution – the American Revolutionary War ran from 1775 to 1783.

GENRE PAINTINGS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

In Europe some painters had already focused upon depicting life around them in genre paintings.

For example, in the Netherlands in the 16th Century, Pieter Bruegel the Elder was known for painting large crowds of peasants enjoying themselves.

Later, William Hogarth focused upon the lives of ordinary people and in images called 'Beer Street and Gin Lane' Here, he depicted the popularity and dangers of excessive alcohol drinking.

Ask students to research the work of one (or both) of these artists. Also, there are other Korean and Japanese genre artists. For example, notable Korean painters include Sin Yun-bok and Kim Deuk-sin, whilst Japanese printmakers include Katsushika Hokusai and Utagawa Hiroshige.

WHAT'S THE THEME?

The Album of the Genre Paintings is a remarkable depiction of what daily life was like in 18th Century Korea.

Why not get your pupils to work out what the main aspects or themes of daily life are shown? Provide them with a selection of paintings which are now easily downloadable. Between 6- 12 paintings would be good number.

Then, in pairs or groups, ask them to analyse each painting and work out what aspect of life each painting is depicting. Task the with coming up with a title or a name for each painting.

You can then reveal the titles to them to see if they agree with them or not. [You can find the names / titles here.](#)

Once they have worked out the names, ask them to classify the selection of paintings into different groups such as:

- Work
- Daily Life
- School
- Hobbies

CREATE A MINI EXHIBITION OF THE PAINTINGS

Put your pupils in the role of an art gallery/museum curator.

Their job is to prepare for an exhibition of genre paintings.

You could ask them to research The Album of Genre Paintings, select 4 / 6 / 8 paintings for their exhibition and then write a didactic (blurb to accompany) for each painting to give it context and explain what it shows to the visitors.

The didactics could include:

- Title
- Brief description of the scene
- Background and purpose
- Date

WRITE AN ONLINE ENCYCLOPAEDIA ENTRY FOR KIM HONG-DO

The artist Kim Hong-do is an important historical figure.

Why not ask your pupils to research Kim Hong-do's life and research and write an online encyclopaedia entry about him?

It is a good idea to structure their research and give them a specific word count to limit how much they can write. This adds challenge.

Pupils could work individually, in pairs or in groups.

You could use these headings to structure their research and then help them to write their entries:

- Early life
- Life as a painter
- Legacy



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