

The Diversity of Native Americans: We Are Still Here



Ulrich Museum of Art



Object:

Matika Wilbur, *Dr. Mary (Project 562)*, 2015. Photogravure print on paper, 21 13/32 x 28 1/2 inches, Ulrich Museum of Art, Museum purchase

Description:

Students will learn about the vast diversity of Native American tribes through the work of Matika Wilbur and their own research assignment.

Grade Level: 9-12

Subject: US History, AP US History

Length of Lesson: Two 50-minute sessions

Standards:

VA:Re7.1.1a Hypothesize ways in which art influences perception and understanding of human experiences.

VA: Re7.2.1a Analyze how one's understanding of the world is affected by experiencing visual imagery.

VA:Re11.1.1a Describe how knowledge of culture, traditions, and history may influence personal responses to art.

VA:Re11.1.1a Compare uses of art in a variety of societal, cultural, and historical contexts and make connections to uses of art in contemporary and local contexts.

VA:Pr4.1.11a Critique, justify, and present choices in the process of analyzing, selecting, curating, and presenting artwork for a specific exhibit or event.

VA: Re7.2.11a Determine the commonalities within a group of artists or visual images attributed to a particular type of art, timeframe, or culture.

VA:Re11.1.11a Appraise the impact of an artist or a group of artists on the beliefs, values, and behaviors of a society.

Materials:

Way to display/project artwork or print out of the artwork

Independent access to internet

Lesson One:

Activate Prior Knowledge: Ask the students what they know about Native Americans. If the class is in person, list their responses on the board. Do they know of any tribes? Are any of their answers stereotypes?

Teacher input: Brief the students on the history of Native American strife in the U.S. Emphasize that Native Americans still exist today with over 562 federally recognized tribes. Also emphasize that there is no universal generalization of Native Americans, each tribe is unique.

Art Looking: Bring out the image *Dr. Mary*. Explain what Matika Wilbur's *Project 562* is about and give some brief information on Dr. Mary herself. Ask the students to take some time to look at this work. How does Wilbur achieve her goal of the project through this artwork? Think about her expression, the framing, the background, her pose.

Summation: Ask them why Matika Wilbur's project is important, could this project change people's perspectives?

Lesson Two:

Refresher: Ask the students what they learned about Native Americans the day before. Optionally, can make a new list of what they learned beside their prior knowledge list. As each tribe has its own history and culture, assign each student a specific Native American tribe to research and present on. It is up to you and the resources you have available on how specific you want their presentation to be. Maybe they just stand and present their findings, maybe they make a PowerPoint and include images. The key is for everyone to hear each others' presentations to get a sense of how diverse Native tribes are from one another. Ask the students to check out Wilbur's *Project 562* in their research and see if she has photographed someone from the tribe they are researching. Have them compare her photograph to what they have learned from their own research.

Here is a (non exhaustive) list of Native American tribes for the students to research

Great Plains

- Cherokee Nation
- The Great Sioux Nation
- Osage Nation
- Comanche Nation
- Pawnee Nation
- Shawnee Tribe
- Quapaw Tribe
- Cheyenne Tribe

Southwestern tribes

- Kumeyaay Tribes
- Kiowa Tribes
- Pueblo Tribe
- Navajo Nation
- Luiseño Peoples

Northwestern Tribes

- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Klamath Tribes
- Swinomish Tribe
- Tlingit People
- Puyallup Nation
- Tulalip Tribes of Washington
- Yup'ik Peoples
- Quileute Tribe

Southeastern

- The United Houma Nation
- Caddo Nation

Northeastern

- Iroquois Tribes
- Seneca Nation of Indians

Some questions the students can explore for their research

- Where is the tribe located now?
- Is this different from where they are originally from?
- What language do they speak? How many still speak that language?
- What are some of their customs, artworks, and traditions?
- How does the tribe live off of the land? Do they hunt or fish specific animals?
- How do they interact with other tribes?
- What is their history with colonization? The effects it has had?

Resources:

Ulrich Museum of Art Collection portal on Matika Wilbur's work: <https://de1.zetcom-group.de/MpWeb-mpWichitaUlrich/v?mode=online&objectId=9901>

Information on Wilbur's Project 562 <http://www.project562.com/>

Specific Information on Dr. Mary's photograph

<https://www.facebook.com/Project562/photos/day-seven-dr-mary-evelyn-belgarde-pueblo-of-isleta-and-ohkay-owingehdr-mary-evel/10153875722766402/>

Native American History <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Native-American/Native-American-history>