



CLIBURN IN THE CLASSROOM

TEXAN LIKE ME!

A musical tour of the Lone Star State

CLASS ACTIVITY:

Watercolors

Grade Level(s): 3-5

Subject Areas: Music, Art, History

OBJECTIVE

Students learn about influential artist Georgia O'Keeffe, then respond to music inspired by her work by creating their own watercolors. This activity can be done collaboratively with your school's art and/or history teacher, or as a standalone music class.

SPACE AND EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Teacher will need a Promethean or other smart board/projector and internet access. Students will need an easel (standing, tabletop, or simply paper taped to a wall), paper, watercolor paints, paintbrushes, and water.)

MUSIC TO EXPLORE

WELCHER *Prairie Light: Three Texas Watercolors of Georgia O'Keeffe*

ACTIVITY

1. Explore Tate Kids website "Who is Georgia O'Keeffe," together as a class or independently. Allow students time to fully engage with her paintings: <https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-georgia-okeeffe>
2. Together, listen to Dan Welcher's piece "Three Texas Watercolors of Georgia O'Keeffe," which can be found on the Spotify playlist for this program.
3. Show the O'Keeffe watercolor that corresponds with the Welcher movement on the screen. While the music plays, allow students time at the easel to create their own watercolor landscapes. Encourage them to create Texas scenes from their own experiences and imagination – things like a field of bluebonnets, cacti, desert scenes, or other images that are unique to our state.
4. End with discussion – how does Welcher's piece correspond to specific watercolors (ex. visual color vs. musical color). What sounds in the music made you imagine the scenes that you painted?
5. Display their artwork in an exhibit before a school music or theater performance. Encourage parents and school administration to arrive early for the "gallery opening."