

A Closer Look | About the Artist

Edward Hopper was born in Nyack, New York in 1882, and with an early interest and talent in art, went on to study illustration and painting. With focus on truthful, contemporary subjects, his teachers Robert Henri and Kenneth Hayes Miller at the New York School of Art were significant to Hopper's development as a realist. Hopper made three long visits to Paris between 1906 and 1910; yet, aside from his appreciation of Impressionism, he was not attracted to modern art. Although he sold his first oil painting in the Armory Show in 1913, he continued to pursue commercial illustration as a career.

In 1920 Hopper had his first one-person exhibition at the Whitney Studio Club in New York, and in 1924 he sold all of his works from a solo show at another New York gallery. This success allowed him to dedicate his time to painting. By

the late 1920s, Hopper developed his mature style, characterized by depictions of lonely urban and small town scenes in which there may be only a few silent, solitary figures. Often he shows only the drab architecture, devoid of human life. Hopper's vision of the American scene was one of alienation and anxiety. His life and art were remarkably consistent: a very private person, he endowed the figures in his paintings with a similar sense of detachment. Hopper divided his time between a small apartment in New York's Greenwich Village and trips to New England. Hopper died in New York in 1967. His wife, Josephine, also an artist, died ten months later and bequeathed their joint collection of over three thousand works to the Whitney Museum of American Art.



Edward Hopper (1882–1967)
Sunday
1926
Oil on canvas
The Phillips Collection,
Washington, D.C.



Tampa Museum of Art

A Closer Look | Lesson Plan



Grade level: High School (Grades 9–12)

Subjects: Visual Arts

Lesson Summary

Students will learn the basic tools for analyzing images using Edward Hopper's painting, *Sunday*, as a primary resource.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Analyze Edward Hopper's painting, *Sunday*, using description, reflection and formal analysis (elements of art and principles of design).
- Write responses for each area of analysis.
- Work in groups to share and discuss responses.

Materials

- About the Artist worksheet
- Image of Edward Hopper's painting *Sunday*
- Handouts with elements of art and principles of design
- Student worksheet

Preparation

Teachers should be familiar with the artist Edward Hopper and his painting *Sunday*.

Review elements of art and principles of design with students and provide handouts for the analysis exercise.

Instruction

Review artist and his work with students.

Provide image of Edward Hopper's painting, *Sunday*, to each group or project image for class.

Divide students into groups.

Students will analyze the image using the three-step process writing their responses and sharing with the group after completion.

Distribute copies of the Student Worksheets and elements of art and principles of design handouts (teacher generated).

Review each step of the process and guide students through analysis, providing examples as needed. Give time for analysis and group discussion. At the end provide summary with examples of response from each group.

Collect student worksheets for assessment.

A Closer Look | Student Worksheet



Analyzing an Image

Description

Write an objective description. Look closely at the image and note the details.

List only items that can be seen – facts, no opinion. Example: The man is sitting down.

Reflection

Interpret the image. How does the painting make you feel? What audience response do you think the artist intended?

Interpret what you see and feel. Example: The man looks lonely. The painting makes me sad.

Formal Analysis

Identify elements of art and the principles of design used in the painting.

Example: Artist used vertical and horizontal lines in the painting and the geometric shapes are distinct.
