

Early American Art & Artists

Part 1

The Early American People

- Native Americans (??? – 1499)
- French & Spanish South (arrival in 1499)
- English North (arrival in 1620)

What can we say about the early Americans?

- What was important to each group at that time?
 - Survival ?
 - Freedom?
 - Identity?
 - Money?
 - Expression ?

Native Americans

Culture Areas:

- Northeast
- Southeast
- Plains
- Southwest
- California
- Great Basin
- Plateau
- Northwest
- Subarctic
- Arctic



LIFESTYLE

- There were 100's of Native American Tribes
- Tribes had distinct identities, ethnicity and cultures
- All had a strong relationship with the land
- Ritualistic, legend & superstition
- Warriors, Hunters, Farmers, Craftsman
- Nomadic and Agricultural

ART as Ritual



The Craftsperson

- WOMEN were the primary artists
- WOMEN were high skilled
- WOMEN held high social ranking based on their skills
- Art was social, practical and a form of communication
- “Beauty is a world of balance”



BASKETS

- Used for practical purposes; collected today for aesthetic value



POTTERY

Used pottery to tell stories of their life

- Symbols used to create complex, geometric patterns



JEWELRY

Silver & Turquoise

- Shell & Coral



The French & Spanish South



French & Spanish South

- 1499 - 1560
- Forested highlands, sandy river valleys, marshes and subtropic swamps
- French & Spanish expeditions looking for slaves and gold
- Settlements create irreversible shifts in Native American life
- Travel to the Southwest 250 years before northern settlement



What type of art was needed?

- Art was used to TELL A STORY about early America
- Why was artistic representation of early America important?
- What do you think the artists were hired to do??

Jacque Le Moyne (1533-1588)

- French Artist invited to join the voyage to the new world
- Depicted images of plant life & vegetation
- Known as a cartographer and illustrator

Jacque le Moyne



"Laudonniere and King Athore in front of a column placed by the Commander during the first voyage, and which the Floridians revere"
Gouache and metallic pigments
1564

Theodore de Bry (1528-1598)

- Dutch Protestant from London
- Engraver
- Collects stories and illustrations of European expeditions
- Uses artistic liberty?

Art form: Engraving

- Incising a design on a metal plate
- Wipe with ink
- Print



Theodore de Bry



Theodore de Bry
16th century engraving

The Black Legend

- Anti-Spanish PROPAGANDA
- De Bry uses his ART as a means of political propaganda & hype
- Spanish are “monsters of cruelty”
- Native Americans are “cannibals”

Theodore de Bry



Theodore de Bry
16th century engraving

Theodore de Bry



Theodore de Bry
16th century engraving

RECAP

1. What original group of people used the land as inspiration for their artwork? (1 pt)
2. Name two important artists we learned today. (2 points)
3. How were they similar? (1 pt)
4. How were they different? (1 pt)
5. What is propaganda? (1 pt)
6. Which artist used his art as propaganda? (1 pt)
7. Describe how his artwork was used as propaganda. (3 points)
8. What artform was used to employ this propaganda?

BONUS

- 1. These individuals (in many Native American groups) were highly regarded craftspeople:
- 2. What is the word for “Art that tells a story”?

Spanish in the Southwest

- Migrate West
 - Silver Mining
 - Missionary Work
- Led by priests and missionaries
- Desert landscape
- Native American tribes:
 - Pueblo, Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Anasazi



Why send missionaries to do a military job?



PUEBLO STRUCTURES

- Multi-story communities
- Made of ADOBE
- Adobe is a mix of sand, clay, water and some fiber (straw)
- SPANISH INFLUENCE:
 - Iron devices to mix the material
 - Wooden molds to shape bricks
 - CHURCH' S / MISSION' S



Colonial New Mexico

- Women brought the mud and clay over cliffs to the building site
- 20,000 tons of clay for one structure!
- Spanish build missions with the help of the Native Americans
- Pueblo's incorporate their own artwork
- Friars & Priests were left to help create the Catholic Art with the help of the Native Americans

Missions











Questions

- How would you use art to tell the story of your life, your family, your people?
- What images would you include?
- Functional vs. Artistic?

The End

