



LESSON PLAN

Analyzing Photographs & Prints

Grades/Level: Upper elementary (3–5)

Subjects: Visual Arts and Language Arts

Time Required: 2-3 class periods

Credit: Adapted from Lesson Plan by Susie Newman, Dean of Academic Affairs, Marquez Charter School, Los Angeles, with J. Paul Getty Museum Education Staff ¹

BEFORE YOU VISIT THE EXHIBIT

Each student should make a “**Field Trip Journal**” (download the template from the Museum Education tab) use to assist with gathering information that will be used in this lesson.

Materials Required

- **Field Trip Journal** (cover stock, additional sheets of paper stapled or bound together with yarn, or jute), pencils and erasers.

LESSON OVERVIEW

Students study how artists tell stories related to the American West. They practice telling their own written and visual stories in response to **National Geographic's *Greatest Photographs of the American West.***

¹ *Images of Children in Dorothea Lange's Photographs (Education at the Getty),*

http://www.getty.edu/education/teachers/classroom_resources/curricula/dorothea_lange/lange_lesson01.html.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Students will look carefully at photographs in the exhibit for elements of art and narrative content.
- Students will use descriptive language in their interpretation of the photograph.

PHOTO ANALYSIS

Using the following photo-analysis questions students discuss one of the images in National Geographic's *Greatest Photographs of the American West*. **Students record their responses to the following questions in their Field Trip Journal.**

- *What do you see in each image?*
- *If there are people in the photograph, what sorts of things can you tell about them? What do they seem to be doing? How can you tell?*
- *Where was this photograph taken? How can you tell?*
- *When was the photograph taken? How can you tell?*
- *Discuss the stories that each image might tell.*

Grades 3–5:

- Provide photocopies of the images for each student. (photos available this document, pages 4 - 14).
- Have students paste their copy of the image they chose from **National Geographic's *Greatest Photographs of the American West*** inside their journals.
- Give students about thirty minutes to write a story to go along with each of the images, using the answers to the questions.
- Have students share what they wrote and discuss their responses.
 - Are all of the stories alike?
 - Why or why not?
 - What are some similar ideas that emerged in their stories?
 - What are some differences?



ASSESSMENT

- Teacher observation of student discussion and time on task.
- Students should be able to use expressive language to discuss and write about the photographs.
- Students should be able to connect what is depicted in National Geographic's *Greatest Photographs of the American West* with their something in their own experience.

STANDARDS ADDRESSED

Common Core Standards for English Language Arts Grades K–5

- Speaking and Listening Skills
- Writing Skills

National Standards for Visual Arts

Grades 3–4







- Understanding and Applying Media, Techniques, and Processes
Students use different media, techniques, and processes to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories.

Grade 5

- Choosing and Evaluating a Range of Subject Matter, Symbols, and Ideas
Students use subjects, themes, and symbols that demonstrate knowledge of contexts, values, and aesthetics that communicate intended meaning in artworks.









National Geographic's *Greatest Photographs of the American West.*

Exbt #	Image	Mounted Width Inches	Photographer/Submitter	Location	Caption
14		48	EDWIN L. WISHERD	Arizona, 1925	An early color photograph of Rainbow Bridge National Monument captures the geological glory of the 290-foot-high, 275-foot-wide natural arch.
15		12.75	EDWARD S. CURTIS	New Mexico, 1903	Shown here carrying water from the river, Zuni daughters, the photographer recounted, "are the preferred heirs of family land. Houses are the absolute property of women."
16		12.75	P. G. GATES	California, 1911	A Hopi snake priest dons the traditional vestments worn during the Arizona tribe's annual 16-day ceremonial prayer for rain.
17		12.75	T. S. HITCHCOCK	Arizona, 1879	During the same year of this hand-colored, captioned "family portrait," the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a ruling against polygamy.
18		48	BRUCE DALE	Utah, 2001	Eons of sandstone erosion open a two-foot-high window onto such Monument Valley monoliths as Stagecoach, Bear, Rabbit, Castle Rock, Mitten, and Merrick
19		30	LUIS MARDEN	Texas, 1939	Dressed in her best rodeo outfit, a cowgirl hitches her pony by dropping a nickel into an El Paso parking meter.

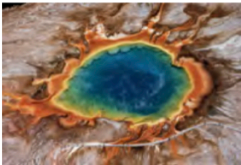








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20		30	WALTER S. BOWMAN	Oregon, 1915	Rodeo Hall of Famer Bonnie McCarroll's fall in her debut at the Pendleton Round-Up presaged her fatal accident there in 1929.
21		48	WILLIAM ALBERT ALLARD	Oregon, 1997	American Indian Beauty Pageant winner Acasia Red Elk waits for a parade at the teepee village, a part of the Pendleton Round-Up rodeo since its 1910 inception.
22		30	THOMAS CROFT & P.A. MILLER	Cherokee Outlet, 1893	On September 16, more than 100,000 settlers, including the photographer's boss, William S. Prettyman, participated in the largest-ever government-sponsored land run—6,361,000 acres.
23		12.75	ROBB KENDRICK	Arizona, 2007	The distinct look of a slightly rolled hat brim and moustache-knotted scarf of Wyoming cowboy Tyrel Tucker found their ways to a Flagstaff horse ranch
24		30	GABRIEL MOULIN	California, 1916	The atmospheric majesty of Yosemite's El Capitan monolith looms large in the popular imagination.
25		30	H.B. CUNNINGHAM	Washington, 1927	Led by photographer H.B. Cunningham, a chief guide at Mount Rainier National Park, a group scales the Nisqually Glacier, one of the largest on Mount Rainier's southern face.


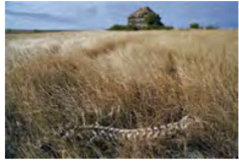




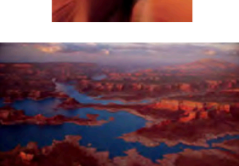


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33		48	PAUL CHESLEY	Wyoming, 1981	In this aerial view, mats of brilliant orange algae and bacteria extend like lashes from the steamy blue eye of Yellowstone's Grand Prismatic Spring, the largest hot spring in the United States, at 250 by 300 feet.
34		30	JAMES L. STANFIELD	Texas, 1967	One man's loss portends another's gain, as helpers offer a paid ride to stranded motorists in the Rio Grande riverbed near Big Bend.
35		30	JIMMY CHIN	California 2010	The aptly named "Thank God Ledge" supports a hiker walking this 40-foot-long sliver of granite on Yosemite's Half Dome.
36		30	WALTER MEAYERS EDWARDS	California, 1971	The land is the loser as racing motorcycles shred through the Mojave Desert near Barstow on their way to Las Vegas.
37		48	MICHAEL NICHOLS	New Mexico, 1980	To photograph the Carlsbad Caverns' Lechuguilla Cave, the deepest cave in the U.S., the photography team climbed, crawled, swam and spelunked 1,600 feet beneath the earth's surface.
38		30	ANNIE GRIFFITHS	Oklahoma, 1982	A ticket seller at Cain's Ballroom smiles as wide as Bob Wills, the famed bandleader whose Texas Playboys helped make Cain's a legend.
39		30	N.E. BECKWITH	California, 1892	Nicknamed "Mark Twain," this 331-foot-tall sequoia lasted 1,341 years. It took loggers 8 days to saw its 90-foot-circumference trunk.





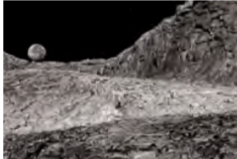




National Geographic's *Greatest Photographs of the American West.*

Exbt #	Image	Mounted Width Inches	Photographer/Submitter	Location	Caption
40		30	JOEL SARTORE	Montana, 2005	Back at the cabin at the end of a day in the Choteau backcountry, hunters and a dog admire their multi-pointed trophies.
41		30	EUGENE RICHARDS	North Dakota, 1997	Symbolic of the High Plains migration, the earth consumes two skeletons—one of an animal and one of a home—as both decay in an Epping wheat field.
42		48	FRANS LANTING	Arizona, 2010	Called "King Bend," by locals, the U-shaped meander of the Colorado River known to the world as Horseshoe Bend flows 1,000 feet below the overlook.
43		30	WILLIAM ALBERT ALLARD	Arizona, 1970	Beneath a sweat-stained hat and a 48-star flag, Henry Gray frets losing the federally owned rangeland on which he ran cattle for 50 years.
44		48	SAM ABELL	Montana, 1984	Jutting 2,400 feet above the infinite plains, Square Butte appears to rise as the sun sets over the boundless pink horizon.
45		30	FRANS LANTING	Arizona, 2007	A shaft of light bisects the distinctive Navajo Sandstone shapes of Antelope Canyon, a slot canyon near Page formed by millennia of flash flooding.
46		30	MICHAEL MELFORD	Utah, 2006	Drought-induced levels of water in Lake Powell reveal the laticework of Glen Canyon for the first time since the Colorado River was dammed to create the reservoir in 1963.





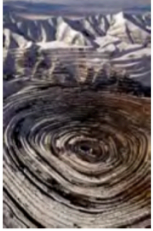

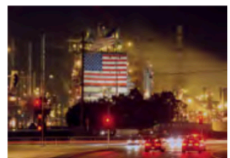


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53		30	MARK O. THIESSEN	Idaho, 2007	Forest fires present greater danger than ever in the West. This blaze near Warm Lake claimed a half-million acres of subalpine forest.
54		30	VINCENT LAFORET	Arizona, 2007	Phoenix's verdant exurbs push the boundaries of the desert and nature's ability to sustain mankind's unquenchable thirst for water and environmental control.
55		30	MICHAEL MELFORD	California, 2007	Backlight from the sun captures blowing silicate as a sandstorm rages through the mesquite and arrowweed of Death Valley.
56		30	JIM RICHARDSON	Nebraska, 2004	A pair of workers halts haying in the Sand Hills to watch with concern and awe as rolling thunderheads fill the afternoon sky.
57		30	PETER ESSICK	California, 2011	A setting moon creates an appropriately otherworldly backdrop for the lunar-like landscape near Donohue Pass on the northern reaches of the Ansel Adams Wilderness area.
58		30	BRUCE DALE	Colorado, 1999	As they have since 1880, the narrow-gauge tracks of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad snake through sagebrush along the New Mexico-Colorado border toward the San Juan Mountains.
59		48	ROBERT S. SACHA	New Mexico, 1988	The ancient past meets the future, as stars appear to circle the earth above kiva Casa Rinconada, an Anasazi observatory in Chaco Canyon.






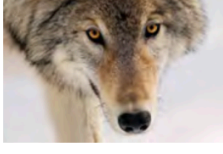



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60		30	DAVID ALAN HARVEY	Montana, 1994	Ed Blackthunder, a South Dakota Sioux, proudly dons his traditional dance outfit during the annual Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation Pow-Wow, one of many celebratory gatherings of indigenous peoples across the West.
61		30	DAVID ALAN HARVEY	Colorado, 1991	Two granddaughters in the tightly woven family of National Endowment for the Arts Heritage Fellow Eppie Archuleta (left) wrap themselves in the elaborately handmade wool blankets her mother, Dona Agueda Martinez (far right), taught her to weave.
62		30	DUGALD BREMNER	Wyoming, 1994	Glaciers, such as this one in the Grand Tetons, may be retreating, but these mountaineers, like others descending them, certainly aren't.
63		30	MICHAEL MELFORD	New Mexico, 2008	The rapid depletion of nonrenewable energy sources prompts today's pioneer to look skyward for new frontiers. Outside Albuquerque, multiple mirror arrays concentrate light, converting solar energy to thermal energy and electricity.
64		12.75	JAMES L. AMOS	Utah, 1975	A dusting of snow dramatizes an open-pit copper mine in the Oquirrh Mountains that runs nearly three miles wide, almost a mile deep, and has yielded close to 20 tons of copper.
65		30	JEFF KROEZE	California, 2008	A long exposure on a breezy, starry night seems to transform some of the 5,000 turbines at Tehachapi Wind Farm into futuristic flowers producing 800 million kilowatt-hours of electricity a year.
66		30	SARAH LEEN	California, 2005	Festooned with a giant U.S. flag, British Petroleum's Carson refinery rises above the streets and trees as an eerily iridescent monument to American oil production.





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67		48	GERD LUDWIG	California, 2006	Sunken palm trees in the Salton Sea suggest the catastrophic environmental decay of a "sea" formed 227 feet below sea level by agricultural runoff. With little rainfall, no outlets, and 25 percent more salt than the Pacific Ocean, the state's largest lake could soon be biologically
68		30	ROGER RESSMEYER	New Mexico, 1993	Continuing mankind's timeless quest to understand the cosmos, telescopes at Kirtland Air Force Base's Starfire Optical Range beam a green copper-vapor laser and an orange sodium-wavelength laser into the atmosphere to create an artificial star.
69		30	JOEL SARTORE	New Mexico, 2005	In the encroaching shadow of the Four Corners refinery, mourners leave one of the 60 graves at St. Mary's Cemetery in Bloomfield.
70		30	DAVID ALAN HARVEY	Montana, 1994	Stepping away from the annual Chippewa Cree Tribe Pow-Wow, Rocky Boy's Reservation resident Rena Denn proudly leads visitors from other tribes on a tour of the Bear Paw Mountain foothills.
71		30	CHRIS JOHNS	Nevada, 1991	After 14 hours on the job, 19-year-old cowboy Cheth Wallin gazes reflectively westward from the bed of a pickup truck.
72		30	TOM LEESON	Wyoming, 2008	A gray wolf pup eyes the camera curiously near Yellowstone's Norris Geyser Basin. After being driven to near-extinction, packs have resurfaced in the western U.S.
73		30	WILLIAM ALBERT ALLARD	Nevada, 1979	A cowhand secures a barbed-wire fence at IL Ranch.



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74		30	MICHAEL NICHOLS	California, 2008	A tagged Northern spotted owl, emblematic of logger-conservationist controversy, swoops strikingly from a young redwood forest in Marin County.
75		48	JOEL SARTORE	Nebraska, 1996	Silhouetted at sunset against a radiant cumulus cloud, spectators take in the action at Nebraska's Big Rodeo, held annually in Burwell since 1921.