

Revolutionary Art & Trailblazing Artists

Knowledge Set Teaching Guide

This Knowledge Set celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month and explores how the arts can be used to foster cultural identity and promote social change. The instruction in this set focuses on author's craft and guides students to analyze elements of text structure, word choice, and tone. As students progress through the texts they will learn about Mexican artists who have used their craft -- acting, music, dance, and drawing -- to break down barriers in their field, unite their communities, and bring attention to political and social issues.

Target Grades & Subject(s): Grades 6-10; English-Language Arts, Visual & Performing Arts

Learning Objectives

- Students will compare and contrast the impact different artists had on their communities and use textual evidence to support their conclusions. (CCSS RI.1)
- Students will explain how a text's structure contributes to an author's argument and the evaluate the effect of specific word choice and tone on a text's meaning. (CCSS RI.4, RI.5)

Before Teaching this Series

- Introduce this set by reading excerpts from presidential proclamations of National Hispanic Heritage Month from [2016](#) and [2017](#). Discuss why it is important to celebrate the history and accomplishments of the different cultural groups in the U.S.

Texts in this Set (download texts [here](#))

Text 1: Dolores Del Río: Google Honors Mexican Hollywood Star (1 page)	
The first three articles in this set focus on Mexican artists who broke barriers and made significant contributions in their fields. This article introduces Dolores Del Rio, an actress who overcame significant obstacles in the film industry, and reflects on the power of media representation. As students read, they will identify the author's purpose and main ideas.	<u>Extension Activity:</u> Have small groups analyze the charts and data in the Comprehensive Annenberg Report on Diversity in Entertainment . Discuss: What other groups are underrepresented in the media? What are some ways to increase diversity?
Text 2: Singer-songwriter Juan Gabriel rose to stardom with music always from the heart (3 pages)	
In this article, students will learn about singer-songwriter Juan Gabriel and how his work inspired many other Latino musicians. The instruction in this set guides students to focus on aspects of text structure and compare and contrast the impact that Gabriel and Del Rio made on their communities and wider society.	<u>Discussion Questions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why do you think many of Juan Gabriel's songs included " nods to hard-working everypeople" in Latin America? - What does this reveal about his values?
Text 3: An Anonymous Psych Patient Is Now Acclaimed as a Master Artist of the Immigrant Experience (2 pages)	
This article describes the work and life of Martin Ramirez, a Mexican immigrant to the U.S. who spent most of life in mental institutions. As students read, they will continue to analyze how text structure and word choice impacts the author's argument.	<u>Discussion Question:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What do Ramirez's experiences reveal about public attitudes toward Mexicans at the time?
Text 4: From the favelas: rising up through arts and sport in Brazil (2 pages)	
The next two articles in this set focus on how art can be used to promote unity and social and political changes. In this article, students will learn about some of the challenges facing poor communities in Brazil and how samba and sports are helping to address these issues.	<u>Discussion Questions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review the images of Ramirez's artwork in the article. What's happening in the images? What stands out to you? - What themes does his work address?

Text 5: Oaxaca's revolutionary street art (3 pages)

The final article in this set describes how street artists in Oaxaca, Mexico are using their work to unite their community and challenge government policies. As students read, they will continue analyzing evidence and evaluate how elements of text structure contribute to the author's argument. After reading, students will synthesize information from all the texts in this series and write a reflection about how the arts can be used to foster cultural identity and promote social and political change.

Extension Activity: Ask students to research other people of Hispanic heritage who have made significant contributions to their communities. ([Google's Latino Art & History Archive](#) is a great resource that explores Latino history and culture from the 1500s to today.) Have students prepare presentations to share about their selected person.