

**Lesson Title: Mush Art
Iditarod Art Inspired by Jon Van Zyle**

Developed by: Cathy Walters

Discipline / Subject: Art

Topic: Mush! art project with Jon Van Zyle

Grade Level: PK-5

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

- *Iditarod Memories* by Jon Van Zyle. This book contains 25 illustrations of some of the posters Jon has painted for the Iditarod and the story behind each one. If you have any of Jon's posters it would be nice to bring them in for the children to see their actual size.
- *The Great Serum Run* by Debbie A. Miller and illustrated by Jon Van Zyle
- *Dougie* by Pam Flowers and illustrated by Jon Van Zyle
- Any other favorite books you may have that are illustrated by Jon Van Zyle.
- Jon Van Zyle song printed on song chart
- Step-by-step instructions included with this plan on how to draw a musher, sled and dog.
- 11"x17" white construction paper
- Markers

Lesson Summary:

Students will observe Jon Van Zyle's Iditarod art as well as some of his other work showing the beauty of Alaska. They will learn a song about Jon and then draw their own Mush! Art following a step-by-step format.

Standards Addressed: (Local, State, or National)

National Standards:

NA-VA.K-4.1 Students know the differences between materials, techniques, and processes and students use different media, techniques, and processes to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories

NA-VA.K-4.2 Students use visual structures and functions of art to communicate ideas

Alaska State Standards:

A.3 Students will appropriately use new and traditional materials, tools, techniques and processes in the arts

A.6 Students will integrate two or more art forms to create a work of art

Learning Objectives:

The student will:

- Name the official Iditarod artist, Jon Van Zyle
- Sing the Jon Van Zyle song
- Draw a piece of artwork that includes a musher, sled, and dog.

Method of Assessment for Learning:

Student will name the official Iditarod artist, sing the song about him, and draw his or her own Mush! Art.

Procedural Activities:

1. Share the pictures and stories from *Iditarod Memories* and any other artwork you

have collected of Jon Van Zyle. If you don't have this book or would like to have your students view more go to www.jonvanzyle.com.

2. Learn the Jon Van Zyle song set to the tune of the old television show, *The Adam's Family*.
3. After viewing and singing show your students the Mush! Art that they are going to draw. That means you must draw a completed piece of artwork before class!
4. Tape your completed piece of work on the board beside a blank piece of paper. Demonstrate, on the blank piece of paper, step-by-step how to draw the musher.
5. The next step depends on the age of your students, their artistic ability, and confidence. Grades 3-5 can work independently and follow your example as a group. PK-2 can work in small groups with the teacher or assistant.
6. When the musher is completed demonstrate in the same fashion how to draw the sled. Still following the step-by-step instructions, demonstrate how to draw the dog.
7. Add mountains, snow, sled bag...whatever personal touches you would like to include. I like to have my students complete the piece by writing Mush! across their artwork.

Materials Students Need:

11"x17" white construction paper, pencils, markers, and step-by-step drawing procedures (for older students)

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning: www.iditarod and www.jonvanzyle.com

Other Information:

I have successfully used this lesson with students in every grade from PK-5. At each level they are very satisfied with their final product. Many students in fourth and fifth grade thought they couldn't draw until I broke the process down into steps and shapes that they could see.

Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities

This project could be given new dimension by using stencils of the basic shapes of the musher. Students could cut out different colors of construction paper for the circle head and triangular coat or they could use cloth or wallpaper samples to give the project more flair. Fake fur could be used for the fur ruff surrounding the musher's hood. Fur could also be used on the dog and cotton balls for clouds or snow. Put out lots of options and see where your student's creative energies go!