



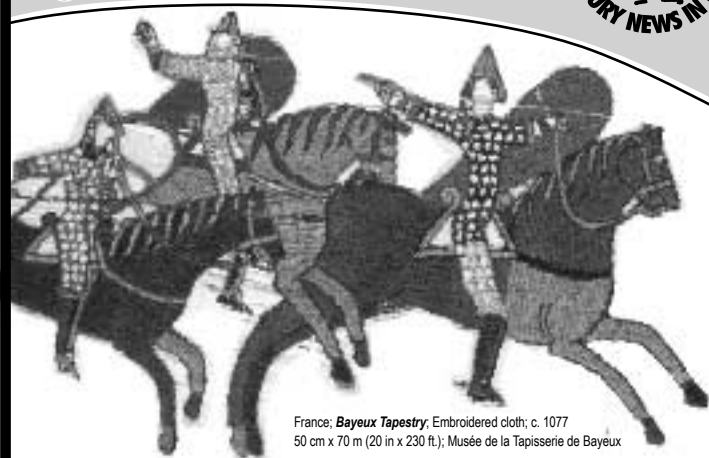
ART from the PAST

PROJECTS

FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

War & Peace

Ancient civilizations developed strategies for conquest & peacekeeping. When possible, they resolved conflicts to avoid terrible wars. When battles flared, warriors relied on courage, weapons, magic & strategy to overcome enemies. Art from the past reminds us of their struggles.



France; *Bayeux Tapestry*; Embroidered cloth; c. 1077
50 cm x 70 m (20 in x 230 ft.); Musée de la Tapisserie de Bayeux

Medieval Knights

Imagine stitching a 230-foot historical scene! The Bayeux Tapestry is a famous embroidered frieze of the Norman invasion of England in 1066. The continuous story shows details of medieval knights, leaders & battles.

- ◆ Plan a medieval frieze for an accordion book.
- ◆ Cut & fold a long paper strip back & forth. Attach covers to ends.
- ◆ Illustrate book with a knight's escapades. Include castles, conquests, peace treaties & festivals.



Student Drawing, Neil M., Grade 5

Japanese Samurai

Samurai warriors of medieval Japan followed a code of honor that stressed loyalty, courage, self-discipline & compassion. Though trained as fighters, they also studied the arts & cared for children & elderly. Their legendary swords, armor & code of honor are inspiring today.

- ◆ Adapt samurai traits to create a modern superhero. Use posture & expression to show strength, courage & kindness.
- ◆ Color a superhero warrior in full armor.



Anonymous (Japanese)
Untitled; Drawing, 24 x 15.2 cm (sheet)
Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, A049009

Mexican Warrior

Crouched warriors have protected narrow tombs in western Mexico since 200 B.C. Their sculptural details show ancient tools & weapons. Try molding a clay warrior posed for battle. Plan his posture & add details.



Mexico, Jalisco; *Warrior Figure*; 200 B.C. - A.D. 500
Slip-painted ceramic; 12 x 6 1/2 x 9 in. (30.48 x 16.51 x 22.86 cm); Los Angeles County Museum of Art, The Proctor Stafford Collection, purchased with funds provided by Mr. and Mrs. Allan C. Balch M.86.296.74; Photograph ©2006 Museum Associates/LACMA

Chinese Warrior

Emperor Qin Shi Huang had united most of China by 220 BC. Since he expected to remain a ruler in the afterlife, he was buried with an army of 8,000 life-sized clay warriors. Individual, realistic & dressed for battle, they have guarded his tomb against dangers for over 2,000 years.

- ◆ What dangers lurk in the next 50 years? 250? 2,000? Global warming? Poverty? Space demons?
- ◆ Cut magazine pictures for a warrior collage.
- ◆ Choose pieces for a warrior designed to battle future dangers. Plan armor, weapons & skills.
- ◆ Assemble & glue.



China, Xian, Shaanxi Province; *Kneeling Warrior*; c. 215 B.C.
Ceramic; Mausoleum of Emperor Qin Shi Huang



Indonesian Shield

Asmat warriors believed their shields represented ancestors whose spirits made them fierce & invincible. Their carved & painted shields had symbols that scared away enemies. Kept at house doorways, the shields gave protection while the family was away.

- ◆ Make an ancestor symbol shield. Cut a shield shape from poster board.
- ◆ Design a symbol to represent a relative. Make it powerful by enlarging & repeating the design on the shield.
- ◆ Outline & color shield. Write a description honoring your ancestor to display with the shield.

Asmat, Casuarinen Coast, Irian Jaya, Indonesia
Shield with Three Ancestral Figures; 20th century
Wood, pigments, fiber
Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University 1998.56
www.museum.stanford.edu

African Peacemaker

In Zaire, people gathered by a sacred statue to resolve arguments. They discussed problems, worked out solutions & sealed agreements by pounding nails into the statue. The figure's staring eyes & prickly presence reminded them to resolve conflicts & work for peaceful solutions.

- ◆ Using paper tubes, wood scraps, paper, fabric & yarn, create a peacemaker statue.
- ◆ Meet there to work out arguments. Discuss & listen to each other. Brainstorm ideas & agree on a solution. Add a pushpin as a promise to follow through.

Look in the Mercury News

Look for articles about countries struggling to find peaceful solutions for their conflicts.

Modern-day warriors fight poverty, disease & hunger. Look for articles about the progress of these battles.

ARTS FOR ALL!

Information & activities created for teachers, parents & kids by :

COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND ARTS (CSMA) AT FINN CENTER
230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View, CA 94040 | 650.917.6800 | www.arts4all.org

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