

Lesson Plan

Dance Class

Lesson Title: What Inspired Degas? What Inspires You?

Objective: Students will analyze artistic inspiration and discover what inspires them. The students will express what inspires them through written words and a drawing.

Materials:

Book-*Dance Class* and *About the Artist*, Edgar Degas

1 thesaurus and 1 dictionary

What Inspires Me (printable)

Dance Class Quiz (printable or online version)

Pencils and crayons

1. **Engage:** Students will view book *Dance Class* and *About the Artist* Edgar Degas.
2. Discuss the Edgar Degas paintings and his biography. Point out that Degas' favorite theme to paint was the female ballet dancer.
4. Explain that Degas was **inspired** by the beauty and grace of the ballet dancers.
5. **Teach:** Write the word **inspire** on the board. Discuss the meaning of the word **inspired**. Call on two students to look up the word **inspired** in the dictionary and thesaurus and have them read the meaning to the class. Write them on the board.
6. Discuss how artists and painters are inspired by many different things. Many artists have a favorite theme that inspires them to paint.
7. **Guided Practice:** Ask students to share aloud what inspires them to draw? What do they find exciting, interesting or beautiful? Let the students describe the things that they have an urge to paint or draw.
8. **Independent Practice:** Hand out the *What Inspires Me Printables*, one for each student. On the handout, the students will write a paragraph about what inspires them and why. Then, they will draw a colorful picture of what inspires them.
9. Then, hand out the *Dance Class Quiz printable*, one for each student, (or the online version if preferred.)
10. **Assessment:**
 - *Grade the What Inspires Me independent work based on the writing skills level appropriate for your class and their completed drawing.
 - *Grade the *Dance Class Quiz*. The teacher's Quiz Key is below.

Quiz Key

Dance Class

(For the teacher's use)

1. Who painted the artwork in the story?
 - a. Frida Kahlo
 - b. Vincent Van Gogh
 - c. Leonardo Da Vinci
 - d. Edgar Degas**
2. Where was the artist Edgar Degas born?
 - a. Paris, France**
 - b. Rome, Italy
 - c. Berlin, Germany
 - d. Amsterdam, Holland
3. When was Edgar Degas birthday?
 - a. July 19, 1734
 - b. July 19, 1834**
 - c. July 19, 1934
 - d. July 19, 2034
4. What kind of school did Edgar Degas' parents want him to attend?
 - a. business school
 - b. cooking school
 - c. law school**
 - d. architect school
5. What kind of school did Edgar Degas chose to go?
 - a. art school**
 - b. medical school
 - c. pilot school
 - d. engineer school
6. Edgar Degas was the son of...?
 - a. a wealthy politician
 - b. a wealthy banker**
 - c. a poor farmer
 - d. a poor shoe maker
7. What was Edgar Degas favorite painting theme?
 - a. tango dancers
 - b. tap dancers
 - c. ballet dancers**
 - d. salsa dancers
8. Where did Edgar Degas travel?

- a. **New Orleans, Louisiana**
- b. Los Angeles, California
- c. Houston, Texas
- d. Atlanta, Georgia

9. What was the name of the only painting that Degas sold to an art museum in his lifetime?

- a. Sunflowers
- b. Mona Lisa
- c. Life with Oranges

d. The Cotton Exchange at New Orleans

10. How old was the painter Edgar Degas when he died?

- a. 83 years old**
- b. 93 years old
- c. 103 years old
- d. 123 years old