

ART PRESENTER PROGRAM

Han Horse **Grade Three**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Today's art presentation is that of a sculpture. The flying horse sculpture is one of many tomb pieces found during the Han Dynasty of China. A dynasty is a series of rulers belonging to one family. The Han Dynasty ruled China for over 400 years. (206 B.C.-220 A.D. Under their rule, arts and sciences grew and China became a large and powerful empire. The greatest invention of the Han period was paper. Artists glazed pottery and large stone carvings.

The horse was an important animal in Han culture and were few in number. Horses were used for special purposes, not to ride for transportation. The first use was to pull chariots. An emperor had six, a lord three, an official two and an ordinary citizen one.

The early horses were not like the sculpture. Shorter and stockier, they were not good for battle. Eventually, the emperor traded to get horses that could carry a soldier in battle. During the Han period, artists began to take an interest in the horse, especially trying to show the horse in motion.

The horse for today's presentation is one of 220 tomb pieces found at Leitai, a burial site along the silk routes of China. Tomb pieces were made in order to enable the dead to continue their normal day in the after life. The lively horse of bronze is galloping and neighing with its head and tail high. To show its speed, the unknown sculptor placed its right hind hoof in a flying motion, and the other three hoofs in the air. The horse was a symbol of speed, perseverance, and fire.

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Chinese Han Horse (The Flying Horse)

Grade Three

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe the horse.
2. What is it doing?
3. What emotion does it show? (strength, honor)
4. Why would a horse be chosen as a symbol of human feeling?
5. Even though the statue does not move, do you get a feeling of movement when you look at it? Explain.
6. The sculpture is made out of heavy metal; however, it still seems like it is weightless. How did the sculptor achieve this?
7. Is there one “best” view of this horse? Does one view have a different feeling than another?
8. Does the color play an important part of this sculpture? Could it have been made to be red or green or any other color?
9. In your opinion, what is the most important thing about this sculpture?
10. What did this sculpture probably mean to the people in whose time it was created?
11. How does the horse (sculpture) compare to horses that you have seen?
12. For those that would like to have a sculpture like this in your room, why do you like it?

EXTENDED ACTIVITIES TO ACCOMPANY: Han Horse (The Flying Horse)

Grade Three

Sculpture is a three dimensional object which sits in actual physical space. It is given shape by its mass and volume. (Mass is the amount of material which displaces space and volume is the space contained within the object.)

1. Paper sculpture of an animal

Materials: construction paper, scissors, ruler, stapler, tape, glue, and pictures of animals for reference (optional)

Roll rectangular pieces of paper into tubes or cylinders. Roll half circles of paper into cones. Use cylinders for body and legs, the cones for the head.

Use

free form cuts of paper for ears, mane, tail, etc.

You may want to cut pieces of construction paper ahead of time and give each

student several pieces. This would save a great deal of time.

2. Aluminum foil sculpture

Materials: medium weight aluminum foil, scissors, pins, wire, toothpicks, and Other decorative items.

Give each student a sheet of foil about 18 inches long. Let them squeeze sculptural shapes from the foil. Create fanciful insects, people and animals. Add wire, toothpicks, feathers etc. if possible.

3. Chinese letters/galloping horse

Materials: copies of the Chinese alphabet and copies of the running horse (both in a folder; colored construction paper, glue stick

Students could be given a copy of the galloping horse to color. Then using the Chinese alphabet, they could name their galloping horse by making the Chinese letters at the bottom of their picture. Glue or staple their picture

to a piece of colored construction paper to add color to the project.