

Frederic Remington  
(1861-1909)

Sources: Dictionary of American Biography, World Book

Frederic Remington, the son of a newspaper editor, was born in Canton, New York. He attended private schools and Yale University, where he was a varsity football player and heavyweight boxer. He was six feet tall, but battled weight problems most of his life. At the age of nineteen he went to the American West. After staying five years he returned to New York state. He later married and kept a home there. Remington taught himself to paint. He not only painted pictures but also illustrated for magazines. The future president Theodore Roosevelt wrote a series of magazine articles that Remington illustrated. He also illustrated Longfellow's famous poem *Hiawatha* and Francis Parkman's *Oregon Trail* and his own books and articles. His travels included both all over America and Europe, along with illustrating the action of the Spanish-American War. In 1895 he turned to sculpture producing twenty-five important pieces in only fourteen years. His most famous is the bronze *The Bronco Buster*.

Frederic Remington went West to make his fortune. He didn't get rich out West, but he did come back to the East with many sketches. His paintings and drawings are done from memory, life, and photographs.

While in the West, he lived and worked with cowboys, and for a short time with friendly American Indians (Native Americans). He learned to love the West and wanted to record what he saw in his drawings, paintings, and sculptures. Remington's works are realistic, colorful, and true to the life that he saw.

ART PRESENTER PROGRAM

Frederic Remington  
"The Scout: Friends or Enemies"

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Grade Two

Description:

1. What do you see in the picture?
2. Consider the title, "The Scout: Friends or Enemies". What does that mean do you think?
3. What was the job of the scout back in the 1800's?
4. What do you think the American Indian scout in the picture is thinking about? What is he looking at?
5. What time of year is it? What time of day?
6. Do you think the scout is going to the town, or is he just "scouting" it?
7. Does he look as though he has ridden far? How do you know?
8. Is a lot of action taking place or is it a quiet moment? Do you think it might give one the idea that something could happen which would involve a lot of action?
9. How can you tell that this was painted a long time ago?
10. Is the American Indian dressed the way you expected? Do any of his things show that he has had contact with anyone other than his own people, the Native Americans?
11. Does this scene look real or imaginay?

Color:

1. Name the colors that you see.
2. Which colors have more than one shade of the same color?
3. What is the sky had been bright? Do colors help create mood?
4. What shadows do you see?
5. Which colors seems opposites of each other? (example: very dark next to very light)

Texture:

1. How would the snow in the painting feel? Are certain colors used to make us feel hot and cold?
2. Describe how some of the things in the painting would feel. (the horse, the ground, the clothing)

Space:

1. Is the painting crowded?
2. Does the large amount of space give it a quiet or noisy feeling?

#### EXTENDED ACTIVITIES TO ACCOMPANY:

"The Scout: Friends or Enemies"--  
Remington--Grade Two

1. Scene with wild horse and buffalo

Materials: large sheets of white construction paper  
crayons (pieces of green, blue, and brown) available at the BCA  
copied pictures of horse, buffalo  
glue sticks

Color a background of a winter or summer scene with crayons. Glue buffalo and horse onto the paper. This is intended to look like a Remington picture. Two examples are in the red bag.

You may want to cut out the horse and buffalo for the students ahead of time, depending on the time that you have.

2. Winter Scene

Materials: Tide soap, liquid starch and light blue construction paper

Mix Tide soap (or other detergent) with enough liquid starch to whip up into an imitation snow. A large bowl will make enough for approximately 24 students. Give each student a 9" X 12" piece of light blue construction paper and some of the "snow". to make a winter scene.