

Grades 4 - 6 Teacher Resources

Collection Gems: Let's Build A Tower! Lesson



Tower
Gary Spinoso, 1981
Wood, Porcelain, Metal



Canton
Museum
of Art

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Collection Gems: 85 Years of CMA Content Standards

Math

4.G.1 Draw points, lines, line segments, rays, angles (right, acute, and obtuse), and perpendicular and parallel lines. Identify these in two dimensional figures.

Science

6-8. Scientific Inquiry, Practice, Application

- **Apply knowledge of science content to real-world challenges**

Art 4.3PE

Compare and contrast art forms, techniques and functions and artistic styles from a variety of cultures and historical periods.

Art 6.4PE

4PE Connect selected ideas, concepts and processes used in visual art with those used in other academic disciplines.

Collection Gems: 85 Years of CMA About The Exhibit



For our 85th anniversary, the Canton Museum of Art's philanthropic group, the Volunteer Angels, along with CMA's staff, have chosen their favorite pieces from our Collection. All of their choices are displayed in this exhibit - Collection Gems: Celebrating 85 Years of CMA.

The Collection of the Canton Museum of Art contains "the treasures of the museum" and has a long history of growth. The Canton Museum of Art began as the Little Civic Art Gallery on the second floor of Canton's Carnegie Library in 1935. Although activity was initially centered on giving area artists a place to exhibit and students a place to learn, in its very first year, the Gallery acquired three works into its Collection.

The development of the Collection was not a major factor in the early years. In fact, it was not until 1947 that the re-christened Canton Art Institute presented a comprehensive exhibition of the Collection in its Case Mansion home. During the museum's first twenty-five years, approximately 600 objects came to be a part of the Collection.



An Interesting Book, Claude Raguet Hirst

Collection Gems: 85 Years of CMA Lesson Overview

This STEAM influenced lesson tasks students with working in groups to build a tower using only two materials, stirrer straw and sticky tack. Students will individually create maquettes of their towers using graph paper. Once this step is completed, students will work in groups to examine one another's drawings and come up with a plan utilizing structural properties from each drawing. Students will attempt to build a tower based on all of their sketches, adjusting as they go based on trial and error. Whichever team's tower is the tallest at the end will win.

Teachers:

In the days leading up to your lesson, you will receive a link to a Zoom from the Canton Museum of Art in your email. If you need to use Google Meets, you will have to set it up as school servers set up on the Google platform are set up to protect against outside Google meetings. Students will be able to take their projects and all supplemental materials for this lesson home with them at the end of the lesson. If you have any requests, questions, or concerns, please contact the Museum To Go Coordinator at nyki@cantonart.org!

Collection Gems: 85 Years of CMA Let's Build a Tower! Lesson



In the first part of this lesson, students will compare and contrast four works of art from the exhibit, "Collection Gems: Celebrating 85 Years of CMA." During this exercise, students will be introduced to the work, "The Tower," by Gary Spinosa. After students are done comparing and contrasting works of art using their stories and the elements of art, students will be asked to consider how they would ensure stability of a 12ft tall tower. Students will be introduced to their tower building challenge and be tasked with working together to complete a tower using minimal supplies.

Each Student Will Need:

- *A sheet of graph paper
- *Golf pencil
- *Scissors (Not included in kit)

OPTIONAL:

Ruler

Each group will share:

- *Stirrer Straws
- *One package of sticky tack

Lesson Procedure

**A certified CMA instructor will meet with the class via Zoom or Google Meet*

(15 minutes)

**Students will participate in a virtual tour of the exhibit, "Collection Gems: Celebrating 85 Years of CMA."*

**Students will compare and contrast 4 works from the permanent collection based on the stories told through each piece. This will end with an introduction to and discussion of Gary Spinosa's "The Tower."*

(5 minutes)

**Students will individually sketch a tower using only line segments and points (representing straws and sticky tack)*

**The teacher will group students.*

(30 minutes)

**Students will work together to compare and contrast their sketches, merging them to create a tower incorporating elements from each.*

**Groups will build their towers*

(5 minutes)

**The teacher will measure each tower, name a winner, and the instructor will wrap up the lesson.*

Collection Gems: 85 Years of CMA

Additional Resources



Additional Resources!

More tower activities:

<https://www.giftofcuriosity.com/tower-building-steam-challenge/>

Why are bridges so strong? Take the triagle further!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVOnRPefcno>