Visual Literacy

A fun way to engage students is to have them analyze historical images.

Pictures can be handed out to students in small groups or projected for the whole class to see. When handing out pictures to small groups or pairs, each group can analyze a different image. This activity consists of three main parts. Begin by asking the students to identify and list what they see in the picture. During a whole group analysis have students come up to the projected picture. When using an overhead projector or projecting a computer image, have students hold a blank piece of paper over the projected image on the screen of what they see and then pull the paper forward toward the audience. This puts the focus on a small section of the image as a portion of the image is “pulled” out. If using a Smartboard, have students use the “Magic Pen” to highlight the item that is being identified.

 When first using this strategy or completing a whole group lesson, complete each section of the following graphic organizer separately. Assign a student to scribe for the class and as kids are pointing out what they notice, the scribe can record the information on a piece of chart paper. Once students have pointed out what they noticed and saw, have them fill in the next section of the graphic organizer. Then, assign another student to scribe and continue with the explanation of the picture. This is where students can infer what is happening. Finally ask them to list their questions and then have a third scribe record those.

 This activity is great for a discussion starter, to introduce a topic or concept or to summarize and conclude a unit of study.

Visual Literacy

Picture \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| Identify and List Everything You See. |  |
| Explain What is Happening in the Picture. |  |
| State any Questions Raised When Looking at This Image. |  |