

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Myth, Mortals, and Immortality WORKS FROM MUSEO SOUMAYA DE MÉXICO

Before making a visit:

- ❑ Visit the museum and tour the exhibition before your planned school field trip.
- ❑ Bring one chaperone for every ten students. All visitors must screen their bags at the security desk at the entrance of the building.
- ❑ As a pre-visit activity, have students write down their existing knowledge of Mexico.
- ❑ Review the themes, gallery guide, map, and glossary with the students in order to further their understanding of Mexico and of the exhibition.
- ❑ Locate and discuss the volcanoes in the Legend of the Volcanoes section, as well as in other art work found in the exhibition. Identify their symbolic importance in the legend as told. Why are legends important to a society's cultural fabric?
- ❑ Discuss the use of visual art as an avenue for political and social commentary (i.e. Diego Rivera's *Pesadilla de Guerra, sueño de paz mural*).
- ❑ This exhibit displays many facets of Mexican culture. In the section on the Far East, one can see Asian influences in Mexican every day life. Discuss the Age of Exploration and its impact on society.

After Visiting the Gallery:

Activities:

- ❑ Have the students visit the Smithsonian Latino Center's website <http://www.latino.si.edu> (click on Education) to get a behind the scenes look at the Diego Rivera and Siqueiros murals.
- ❑ Have the students create their own work of art that comments on today's society and/or culture.
- ❑ Make connections between the Age of Exploration in the 16th and 17th centuries, and the current wave of globalization. What are the similarities and/or differences between the two? What are some of the results of the spreading of information and the movement of people across nations? Do these two eras have the same motivations and goals?

While in the Gallery:

- ❑ Read the information in the gallery guide on the Legend of Volcanoes, The Ship of China, and the Bodegones and follow the activities as outlined.

Critical Thinking Questions:

- ❑ How do the objects in the exhibition further your knowledge of themes in Mexican culture?

Myth, Mortals, and Immortality: Works from Museo Soumaya de México is an exhibit that explores predominant themes in Mexican culture, and is geared towards middle and high school students.

Education Standards

These selected standards have been adapted from: Content Knowledge: A Compendium of Standards and Benchmarks for K-12 Education by J.S. Kendall and R.J. Marzano. 2004. Denver, CO: Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning. Online database: <http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/>



COSTURA MEXICANA

"Vestido de china poblana" Falda de castor y raso con aplicaciones de chaquira y lentejuela de plata, hilos de plata bordados; blusa de algodón con hilos de seda; faja de seda/"Castor" cotton skirt with silver sequins, embroidered with silver thread; cotton blouse with silk embroidery; silk sash and shawl

WORLD HISTORY (GRADES 6-12)

Section: Influences from the Far East

- Standard 26:** Understands how the transoceanic interlinking of all major regions of the world between 1450 and 1600 led to global transformations.
- Standard 29:** Understands the economic, political, and cultural interrelations among the peoples of Africa, Europe, and the Americas between 1500 and 1750.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY (GRADES 6-12)

Sections: Death, The Legend of the Volcanoes, Influences from the Far East

- Standard 6:** Understands that culture and experience influence people's perception of places and regions.
- Standard 10:** Understands the nature and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics.
- Standard 11:** Understands the patterns and networks of economic interdependence on Earth's surface.

VISUAL ARTS (GRADES 6-12)

Sections: The Mexican School of Painting, Magical Realism, Portraiture, Bodegones

- Standard 4:** Understands the visual arts in relation to history and culture
- Standard 5:** Understands the characteristics and merits of one's own work and the artwork of others.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE (GRADES 6-12)

Sections: The Mexican School of Painting, Magical Realism, Death, Mexican Baroque, Lotería

- Standard 4:** Understands the traditional ideas and perspectives, institutions, professions, literary and artistic expressions, and other components of the target culture.

For more information on specific benchmarks related to the standards, please visit our website at www.latino.si.edu



Smithsonian Latino Center

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Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning
4601 DTC Blvd., Suite 500 Denver, CO 80237
Telephone: 303-337-0990