

# The Dinner Party Curriculum Project

## Classroom Connections: A Beautiful Stamp to a Beautiful Woman

**Grade Levels:** Sixth Grade



Colleen Quigney

Art teacher Colleen Quigney created a sixth-grade lesson entitled *A Beautiful Stamp to a Beautiful Woman* that focuses on two enduring ideas:

- ▶ Voice needs to be given to unwritten history.
- ▶ Even a tiny artwork can give voice to unwritten history.

The lesson is designed to follow student investigations of *The Dinner Party*. Students create a postage stamp image featuring a woman represented in *The Dinner Party*, using aspects of the woman's life in order to express her accomplishments and significance. Students consider how postage stamps have a place in our visual culture in paying homage to important people, places, and things. In this lesson students actually become activists by writing a letter to the postal service and to students' congressional representatives stating the importance of this woman and how a stamp could tell her story to the world. Students become a voice for people who cannot speak for themselves.

### Enduring Ideas:

1. Voice needs to be given to unwritten history.
2. Even a tiny artwork can give voice to unwritten history.

### Lesson One: A Beautiful Stamp to a Beautiful Woman

Class: Sixth Grade

Time Allotment: Nine 50-minute classes



### Overview:

#### Lesson Summary:

Students will use previous research about a woman from *The Dinner Party* to create an artwork. They will create an image featuring a *Dinner Party* woman using aspects of the woman's life to create a postage stamp that says something about this significant person. The field of graphic design and its role in visual culture will be discussed. The class will scan their images and then shrink them down to actual postage size. Students will be activists and write letters to the postal service and congressional representatives stating the importance of this woman and how a stamp could tell her story to the world. New stamps are chosen every year.

It is important to note that this lesson is to be implemented after students are very familiar with *The Dinner Party*.

### *Artworks and Artists:*

1. Judy Chicago's *The Dinner Party*
2. Stamp images illustrating women

### *Key Concepts Addressed in Lesson One:*

1. Postage stamps are a part of visual culture.
2. Postage stamps are collected and valued in part because they are visual images.
3. Every day, we encounter objects and images that have been designed by artists.
4. Students can be a voice for people who cannot speak for themselves.

### *Essential Questions Addressed in Lesson One:*

1. What the artistic properties of a postage stamp?
2. Are postage stamps art?

### *Art Education Standards:*

- ▶ 9.1.5 A, 9.1.5 B, 9.1.5 C and 9.1.5 H
- ▶ 9.2.5 E, 9.2.5 F and 9.2.5 J
- ▶ 9.3.5 A
- ▶ 9.4.5 D



### *Interdisciplinary Connections:*

1. Social Studies
2. Women's Studies
3. Language Arts

### *Lesson Objectives:*

1. Students will use their research to construct an artwork.
2. Students will learn about graphic design and its impact in our visual culture.
3. Student will be activists by contacting their state representative and the U.S. Postal Service via a letter telling about the importance of the *Dinner Party* woman they have chosen for a stamp image, along with the scanned stamp.
4. Students will create a postage stamp to honor a famous woman from *The Dinner Party*.
5. Students will understand the artistic process of research, planning, sketching, selecting the best idea, and then completing the process with a final product.
6. Students will learn how to scan an artwork and change it in some way.
7. Students will learn to be a voice for people who cannot speak for themselves.

### *Assessment:*

Determine the extent and quality of student work in the following areas:

1. Students demonstrated safe use of materials.
2. Students took part in class discussions.
3. Students created a stamp dedicated to their woman based on their research and criteria developed by the class.
4. Students filled out all of the worksheets to the best of their ability.
5. Students wrote letters about their stamps, stating their importance.

## Sequence of Action:

1. (Engage) The teacher will have color print-outs of stamps with famous women on them for the students to investigate. The class will work as a whole to talk about all of the stamps and choose which they find most interesting and/or compelling.

2. The field of graphic design will be discussed and how all mass-produced objects are designed by someone first.

3. (Develop) The teacher will show the class how to draw the face in proportion. We will discuss frontal, side, and three-quarter views of the face and the students will practice drawing faces in the three ways demonstrated in class.

(Day 2)

4. (Develop) The students will have the day to sketch some designs for their stamps. They will make a few thumbnail sketches and then pick out their favorite for their stamp. (Day 3)

5. The teacher and students will address the question, "What will a successful stamp include?" and create a list of criteria with which all students will be familiar.

6. The teacher will go over materials and choose the right materials for the stamp that the students will create. The students will pick their materials and start to create their stamps. (Days 4-6)

7. The teacher will show the class how to scan their stamps into the computer and shrink them down.

8. We will also find our state representative on the Internet.

9. The students will write letters to their state representative and the U.S. Postal Service showing their stamps images, in order to possibly get them shown to the world. (Days 7-8)

10. (Culmination) The students will view all of the projects made by the class and discuss which stamp designs are the most successful, given their own generated criteria.



### *Preparation:*

#### Teacher Preparation:

1. Make copies of all worksheets and handouts.

#### Instructional Resources:

1. Color copies of various stamps of famous women

2. Access to a scanner and the Internet

#### Student Supplies:

1. Pencils

2. Erasers

3. Paper

4. Whatever materials the students choose to use for their stamp

# The Dinner Party Curriculum Project

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## *A Beautiful Stamp Design*

By Colleen Quigney

Make four thumbnail sketches of possible stamps to illustrate the woman you will honor.  
Think of the three ways you learned to draw faces.



# The Dinner Party Curriculum Project

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Composing your Letter

By Colleen Quigney

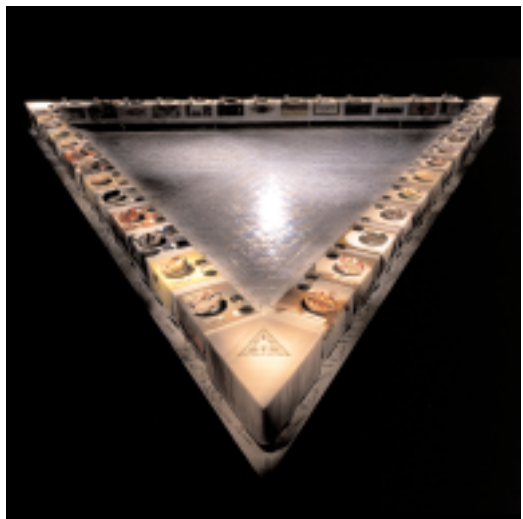
Use the lines below to compose a letter to your state representative and the U.S. Postal Service. We will rewrite these letters later; this is only a rough draft.

[illegible]

Sincerely,

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# The Dinner Party Curriculum Project



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What were some of the amazing things that you learned about the woman you researched?

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2. What were some of the amazing things you learned about other women that your classmates researched?

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3. What is the most important thing you learned about *The Dinner Party*?

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4. What will you tell others about what you learned?

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