

Renaissance Studies in the 7th Grade

In Seventh Grade, the history curriculum focuses on the mid-fourteenth to mid-seventeenth centuries, the age of the Renaissance. This year, my class was assigned a lengthy

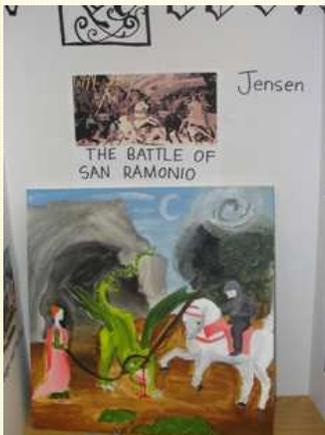


research project on a Renaissance artist or craftsman. There were three aspects to the project: research on the biography of the artist, a handmade rendition of a work of art by that person, and a display of major works of art by the artist.

The research portion of the project was two-fold. First, the seventh graders were required to use at least two books to find details of the artist's biography and examples of his/her work. The second requirement included a technology component, requiring the students to use research databases to find supplementary information about their artists.



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The handmade versions of the artists' masterpieces were completed using water colors, oil paints, colored pencils, pastels, clay, foam core, and wood. We enjoyed seeing everything from a miniature version of a church designed by an Italian architect, to a fully functional printing press in honor of Gutenberg. Display boards varied from cardboard to masonite, and included pictures of palaces, churches, portraits, sculptures, botanical drawings, and scenes of daily life.



The learning objectives for this project included finding out about everyday life in the Renaissance, gaining an appreciation for the artistic inventions created during this time, learning about painting methods, such as frescoes, learning how to conduct online research, discovering the talents of

many major Renaissance artists, and how to write about them without plagiarizing. The Seventh Grade accomplished these goals and more, producing thorough, interesting, beautifully illustrated reports and artwork. This talented group of students could be part of a modern day Renaissance themselves!

