

This lesson plan is based recordings from the National Gallery's Grand Tour Exhibition. You can get the podcasts here: <http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/podcast/default.htm>. And you can download the picture from their website too

1. Write up the titles of the paintings on the board or dictate them to the STDS. Ask them if they can guess what they might see in the painting and if anybody knows these paintings. Write up any useful vocabulary
2. Dictate the description words(below) to them and get them to try to associate them with one or another of the paintings
3. Hand out the pictures (I don't think it matters if they are only B&W as they should be able to guess) and get them to make sure they were right. Check with them and explain any vocabulary, drill this using the pictures
4. Play the recording, stopping after each one and checking what they understood. Play them each a few times
5. Past the picture around and get the STDS. To write down any words they can related to the pictures.
6. Now give out the work sheet and play the recordings again and get them to do the exercise
7. Discuss any vocabulary they have questions about.

To follow up ask the STDS which picture they prefer and why, you could also ask them if they have a favorite painting and or if there is a painting in their country that everybody is familiar with like the Hey Wain. Ask them to write a description of a painting for the following lesson

Constable. The Hay Wain

Green fields blue windy skies a wagon with horses rustic rural cottage

Monet. Bathers at the grenouillère

Rowing boats river leafy green trees pontoon bridge summer dresses

Holbein. The ambassadors

Rich young men dressed in fine clothes lute heavy bright green curtain
terrestrial globe.

Turner. The fighting Temeraire

Big sailing ship. tug boat glorious sunrise cool blue skies rising smoke

Van Eyck The Arnolfini portrait

Wooden clogs chandelier little puppy dog convex mirror wooden floor boards

You will hear four recordings number the phrases below in the order that you hear them

	Bathers at the Grenouillere
	...produced sketches of the scene in a very fresh and direct manner, which would quickly become his individual style.
	This wonderfully relaxing image depicts a popular boating and bathing haven on the Seine
	Monet in his early years was something of a wicked caricaturist and think that the profiles of the people in their slightly ridiculous bathing costumes standing on the bridge shows his talent at caricature.
	We can escape in this picture
	Here in this painting Monet is discovering the great theme of impressionist painting, people having a good time in nature
	I love the brightness of the picture, the freshness of it, the sense of coming upon a wonderful moment of innocent pleasure out there in the sunshine

	The Hay Wain
	This is a picture of Constable's boyhood home. He was brought up in rural Suffolk and he painted this picture when he was living in London
	If you are English you will know this painting already
	If only it was still like this
	A fantasy picture, but a very beautiful fantasy picture, that I think we probably all want to believe in, especially when we are in the middle of polluted, noisy dirty London.
	It's a nostalgic picture harking back to an age that actually never really existed
	This is a picture as about as English as you can possible get
	This was a lost world. This was a world that had been changed by the advent of the Industrial Revolution

	The Arnolfini Portrait
	What's wonderful about this picture is that with this new found oil paint technique, is that the artist has been able to pick out loads of different textures
	I love the idea that I'm standing where the artist would have been standing, so when I look at the mirror reflection at the back, I nearly imagine myself projected in the painting as well
	Giovanni is looking out at us – offering their personal realm to us.
	... but if you were to come into the National Gallery and come right up close, you really get the feeling that you can reach in and touch the fur lining
	Here we have quite a striking image to have out in the middle of the street because it's a hugely personal kind of an image.
	You can spot the artist has included himself and his signature at the back of the space. So if you look above their hands there is a convex mirror and in it you can see a tiny little figure in red.

	The Fighting Temeraire
	The thinking behind the picture is Turner's view of the Industrial Revolution
	Here we see it being pulled along the river to be broken up
	On one side you have the, possibly rising sun – glorious oranges and reds contrasting with the cool blues
	We are allowed to make our own minds up
	Famous for its role in Nelsons victory at the Battle of Trafalgar
	This really marks the end of an era – the age of sail
	I think what's exciting about it is it's the beginning of painting starting to reflect ideas, rather than realities

	The Ambassadors
	However there are two clues in this picture that suggest that it's not such a straight forward image after all
	Showing us two young men in the prime of life
	You are drawn further into the painting by focusing on the skull
	The second clue is the object that seems to float at the bottom of the painting
	They are wanting us to see their wealth, their learning, their position in society
	Move to the right to look at the picture, almost side on and you will see that in fact this is a skull
	This makes reference o the resurrection – that life after death is only possible through belief
	This painting painted by Holbein is a very glitzy double portrait
	And so what happens is you spend a lot of time looking at the skull and looking at the portrait and wondering how the two sections meet and what the connections are between them







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