

The Peaceable Kingdom by Edward Hicks

Print Facts

- Medium: Oil on canvas
- Date: 1834
- Size: 30 x 30.5 inches
- Location: National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.
- Period:
- Style: American Folk
- Genre:
- There are 61 versions of this painting, each one slightly different
- William Penn, one of the first settlers in Pennsylvania, is among the men in the background
- Hicks used symbols in this painting to represent peace-animals and people together, settlers and Indians working together
- Hicks once painted his own face on the lion in one of these paintings

Artist Facts

- Born April, 1780
- Died August 1849 (69 years old)
- Hicks was born in his grandfather's mansion in Pennsylvania
- His father was a Loyalist and was left penniless after the British were defeated in the Revolutionary War
- His mother died when he was only 18 months old. His mother's friend raised him as her own and taught him Quaker beliefs.
- At the age of 13, Hicks became apprenticed to a coach maker.
- He married a Quaker woman named Sarah Worstall.
- Hicks' career started as a decorator of carriages and a maker of signs.
- Hicks was a Quaker, and his choice of career was not looked upon very highly by his community. Because of this, he left the profession for a while to become a farmer.
- He was a preacher in his religion, and refused to paint portraits because they were deemed to be self absorbed. He was better known as a preacher than a painter.
- Hicks used animals to represent qualities. The lion quick-tempered and willful, the wolf melancholy and reserved, the bear sluggish and reserved, the leopard buoyant.

Key Element of Design to Teach

- **Texture** is the quality of the surface, for example smooth, rough, shiny or dull. Texture may be defined as being real or implied. Real texture is the actual texture applied to the surface of the artwork that could be really experienced by the senses. For example, some artists employ the use of certain materials such as wood, stone, metal, glass, cloth, thick paint or other materials to give the surface a desired textural quality. Texture may also be implied. An implied texture is drawn or painted on the surface of an artwork to give it the appearance of having certain textural quality.

Possible Questions and Suggestions to Teach Texture

- You could bring in examples of items in the painting to let the students feel.
- Look at how the artist painted the grass. What would it feel like?
- What about the leaves-do they look smooth or rough? Hard or soft?
- Is there water in this painting? Does it look shiny?
- Look at the fur on the animals. Does it look soft or rough?
- What would the tip of the bull's horns feel like?
- All of these textures are implied, meaning the way it is painted gives it the appearance of having a certain textural quality.

Keywords

- Texture, Mood, Color, Movement, Impasto

Keywords

- Texture, perspective, color, line, balance, light

Other Possible Questions

- What animals do you see in this painting?
- What people do you see in this painting?
- How does the artist draw your eye to the people?
- How are the animals representing peace?
- How are the people representing peace?
- Would you normally see children or babies playing with these animals? Why not?
- What else do you see in this painting?
- What colors do you see in this painting? Where do you see warm colors?
- How many different shades of green do you see? What would you call them?
- Are the animals in the front bigger than the people in the back? Why is this?
- Would you like to be in this painting? Would you be scared?
- What is the mood of this painting? Angry? Peaceful? Happy? Sad?
- What kind of lines do you see in this painting? Straight or curvy?
- Do you see light in this painting? Where?
- Is this painting balanced or does it seem heavier on one side?
- Which animals look peaceful or calm? Which ones look fearful?
- How many stories are happening in this painting?