

HOKUSAI *The Great Wave off Kanagawa*

Primary focus: Wood Block Prints

Secondary focus: Textiles



19th Japanese wood block prints, textiles, and scrolls are an interesting study of diverse mediums. This art greatly influenced European painters.

Discover what a **wood block print** is and discuss the process with the class. *The Great Wave* is in the large black binder.

Define and discuss **textiles** as an art medium. Show the framed Japanese kimono for the discussion.

Scrolls. You can also discuss scrolls and what their function was. There is a framed work of a scroll.

Map skills. Locate on the class room map where Japan is located in relation to the U.S. You can also show the proximity to Europe. Interesting to note is that in the 19th Century, for the first time, Japan began trading with Europe extensively and Japanese art greatly influenced many painters including the Impressionists.

Some questions to pose

- Does this look like a real wave? Why or why not.
- What type of weather is there shown in this print?
- What is in the background? (Mt. Fuji)
- Why do you think the artist chose to do wood cut print and not a painting?
- What does a printing block allow the artist to do?
- How would you describe this work? a portrait or a landscape?
- How do the colors make you feel? warm / cold etc.
- Do you like the colors the artist chose to add to the print and why?
- This artist did many versions of this scene. Can you think of another artist you saw last year that does series paintings too? (Monet)

AT HOME ACTIVITY SUGGESTION:

VISIT THE ART INSTITUTE WEB SITE WHERE THOUSANDS OF TEXTILE EXAMPLES ARE ON VIEW.

www.apple.com/iwork