

QUIDOR *Rip Van Winkle*



Primary Focus: Composition

Secondary Focus: Early Colonial America

Quidor uses architecture, clothing, and other details to depict Early Colonial America in his painting. Find and discuss these.

Compositional arrangement: In art this is how the figures, objects, and colors are arranged. Discuss placement of figures and colors and as a class decide if this work is balanced.

History painting is not always fact since the artist uses the imagination. This is true in Quidor's work as he involves a fictional story.

Locate on a map where in the U.S. this painting is set.

Emphasize the connection to the students' Colonial America social studies unit especially if they are studying it during or after the time you are scheduled to present this work.

IN CLASS: READ A SHORT VERSION OF THE STORY OF RIP VAN WINKLE. THIS PAINTING IS IN THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO.

Some questions to pose:

- What colors are used in this painting?
- What colors jump out at you?
- Who are the main characters in this story? And can you describe in art terms where they are? (use of foreground, middle, left etc.)
- What part of the story did Quidor paint in this work?
- Do you think this painting is balanced or is one side 'heavier' than the other?(the tree creates on the left balances out the mass of people on the right)
- What is the crowd's reaction to Rip Van Winkle?