The Laurent Clerc Stamp Project

**Student History & Art Stamp Module**

In November 2021, administrators and teachers at the American School for the Deaf (ASD) undertook the development of a Deaf history and art embedded literacy project supporting the Laurent Clerc Stamp Project.

The goals of this project are to:

- Acknowledge Laurent Clerc as an American icon.
- To explain why it is important to know this prominent Deaf person and how his legacy influenced American history, both Deaf and hearing.
- To complete an art project that promotes a USPS commemorative stamp campaign with the ambition to have a Laurent Clerc stamp published in America.
- Create a module that can be recreated by students and teachers in schools throughout the United States.

Please consider participating in our campaign and recreating this module at your school.

Laurent
General Outline

1. Students were asked to participate in history learning experiences like visiting their local Deaf museum (Cogswell Heritage House at ASD) or participating in classroom discussions about Laurent Clerc, directed by teachers or presentors.

2. With the information students gathered, they were asked to complete a writing project reflecting the importance of Laurent Clerc to the Deaf community.

3. The students then participated in classes with art teachers where students produced artwork in a stamp format reflecting the legacy of Laurent Clerc.

4. Then students took part in an art event with an artist-in-residence, who educated students on postal stamp art and helped them create their own artistic representations of their relationship to Laurent Clerc.
5. Student art was then displayed prominently in the school.

6. Student’s artwork was photographed and stored with the Laurent Clerc Stamp Project for future inclusion in the USPS stamp application.

If you are interested in more information about doing this art module in your school, please contact us at: thelaurentclercstampproject@gmail.com

Thank you, Laurent Clerc Holt

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Classroom Art & History Module Outline

Project: Laurent Clerc Stamp Project History and Art Module

Participants: Deaf Schools
Students, 6-12
Administrators
Teachers
Historians

Rationale:
The rationale of the Laurent Clerc Stamp project is to acknowledge Laurent Clerc as one of the American icons and explain why it is so important to know this person and how this person’s legacy influenced American history.

Goals are as follows:
1. Instill the value of learning in our students.
2. Explain the legacy of Laurent Clerc and how this person is known today as one of the most influential and prominent persons in Deaf community and in American history.
3. Create a thinking map providing three reasons why Laurent Clerc is important.
4. Express three reasons why Laurent Clerc is one of the most influential American icons in writing (organized paragraph).
5. Produce work of art reflecting the legacy of Laurent Clerc.
6. Visit the available Deaf History museum or meet with a historian for Deaf History teacher to view artifacts or discuss representations.

The plan is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASD Museum Visit (History)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Classes will visit the ASD museum.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Classes will meet with a Deaf History teacher to discuss Laurent Clerc’s life.</td>
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3. Classroom discussion of Laurent Clerc’s contribution to ASL and Deaf History.

### Writing / Thinking Map Project & Work of Art

**Writing Goal:**
1. Each student will express in writing and provide three (3) reasons why Laurent Clerc is one of the prominent icons in American history. They can start with a thinking map and then transition into writing a paragraph. For some older HS students, they can write an essay.
2. The thinking map writing rubric will be used to support the writing process.

**Art / Presentation Goal:**
1. Each student will produce artwork showing the representations or symbols that reflect Laurent Clerc’s legacy.
   a. Classroom teacher will create one sample. Art teacher will try to create one.
   b. Art teacher (s) will work with all students in classes.

**Showcase:**
1. Everyone in this group will organize and set up a showcase both in a digital format and on campus.
2. Administrative organizers will generate and provide an awareness letter for parents and share information with staff via weekly newsletter.
ASD Laurent Clerc Art Lesson Plan

Courtesy of Pam Pritzker-Ridley, Teaching Artist
pam.pritzker@gmail.com

Standards:

**National Core Arts Standards:**
Anchor Standard #1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
Anchor Standard #2. Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
Anchor Standard #3. Refine and complete artistic work.
Anchor Standard #5. Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.

**OBJ:** Students will experiment with mixed media and recycled materials (acrylic paint, paper, cardboard, “stamp” materials, brushes) to create a 2-D stamp honoring Laurent Clerc.

**Materials Needed:** Acrylic Paint (variety of colors/any color), Paint Brushes, 8x10 Acrylic Paint Paper, Construction/Colored Paper, Cups and Tins for Painting, 8x10 Xerox’s of Laurent Clerc (1 for each child), Scissors, Materials to cover the tables/work space, Glue, Markers if needed

Lesson

**Lesson:** Teaching Artists will arrive early to set up materials for students.

**Warm Up (5-7mins):** What do you know about Laurent Clerc? What was Laurent Clerc Famous for? What does he represent to you? Are there any colors or symbols you think represent him? Why?

**Differentiation:**
Materials will be set up in stations so the students can focus on one material at a time without getting overwhelmed.

Samples of each material will be available for each student.

Samples of the stages of art will be at each station acting as a “checklist” for students.
**Mini/Lesson (10-12 mins):**
Review of stamps and various designs. Discussion about the types of designs and how different artists chose different representations.

Student artists chose an image of LC, a base color and are given paper.

**Lesson (60 mins):**
As needed, the Teaching artist will model how to paint on the paper.

Teaching Artists will model how to create texture and refer student artists to the vocabulary and samples.

Students will
1. Paint the background of their paper
2. Add texture to the background
3. Add additional paper/cut outs if desired
4. Students will add an image of Laurent Clerc – Students can choose to cut or tear the image showing all of Laurent Clerc or students can cut it up to be abstract. (possible glue needed)
5. Students are encouraged to return to the painting or stamping station to make sure the image is cohesive with the background and doesn’t feel separate.

Students will have the option of 1-2 other stations to experiment with materials. Teaching Artists and Teacher/Teaching Assistants can also support/model as needed as students move through the materials.

**Wrap Up (5-7 mins):**
Students share their work and discuss why they chose images/symbols they did.
Student Art Samples