

Parent/Teacher Introduction

Themes

Public Art at the Tempe Center for the Arts is based on two themes.

- *Theme in Life*: We all know about places that have special meaning.
- *Theme in Art*: Public artworks can make places more special.

Key Questions

Lessons approach the themes through two key questions.

- What does the artwork say about the place for which it was designed?
- What repetition and variation can be seen in the artwork?

Connections

Broad themes and key questions not only give focus to specific activities but also provide connections that students can use to go beyond those activities.

The broad *theme in art* can be an entry point to explore art from many cultures and times. The broad *theme in life* connects art to widely-held human concerns.

Similarly, the *key questions* can guide inquiry into a great many artworks, not only those introduced in the lesson.

Adaptations and Extensions

The lessons in this unit are written for both elementary and secondary students. You may choose from two different versions of lesson three. “Modular Madness” is appropriate for elementary (or older) students. “Space Invaders” is appropriate for secondary students.

Students vary greatly in maturity and prior experience. Of course, as you plan to implement specific activities, you will want to make adjustments to best suit the abilities and interests of your students.

If a trip to the TCA is not possible for your students, the “Public Art at the Tempe Center for the Arts” Power Point includes numerous photographs of each work.

Estimated Time

Preview and Lesson One = 80-100 minutes

Lesson Two = Field Trip

Lesson Three/Modular Madness = 200-250 minutes

Lesson Three/Space Invaders = 150-200