

Lesson Plans

The Apaches!

Frederic Remington

1904

Oil on canvas, 25 X 30"

CONCEPT

Students will view, analyze and interpret the work of art. Students will learn that artists, through the depiction of characters, action, and setting, can tell a story.

TEKS

The SRM Educator Guide lessons support inquiry-based discussion and align with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for art, history and English language arts. To select correlations for your grade level visit the [Texas Education Agency TEKS website](#).

VOCABULARY

- **Foreground** - the parts of an artwork that appears closest to the viewers.
- **Background** - the parts of an artwork which appear to be farthest away from the viewer and lie behind objects in the foreground and middle ground.
- **Focal point** - the center of interest in an artwork.



DESCRIBE

Describe the action taking place in this scene. What types of people are in this painting? Look at the three men in the *foreground*. How are these men dressed? Look at the horse in this painting. What is the condition of the horse? The artist has placed the horse in the middle of the painting to create a focal point. Look at the figure in the *background*. What direction is the figure headed? What colors did the artist use in the landscape of this painting?

INQUIRE

Do you think this is a calm or active painting? Where does it seem calm in the painting? Where does it seem active in the painting? Look at the man on the horse. How did the artist





paint these figures to create a sense of action?

SUPPOSE

Where do you think this painting is taking place? Who do you think these men are? The title of this painting is *The Apaches*. What clues does this title give us about the story that is happening in this painting? What do you imagine the men are saying to each other? How might they feel about the news that Apaches are nearby?



The Apaches are Coming, Frederic Remington, 1885

INFORM

Responding to the American public's ongoing fascination with the Apache Indians and their chief, Geronimo, Remington painted *The Apaches!* in 1904. He had previously portrayed the Geronimo campaign in 1886 in *Harper's Weekly* with his sketch *The Apaches are Coming*. Remington was familiar with the fearsome reputation of the tribe through stories from the Army and from legend. The *Apaches* illustrates the moment when a terrified cavalryman brings the dreaded news of approaching Apache raiders, striking great fear in the hearts of his listeners. As he has done on several other occasions, Remington returned to a favorite theme, reworking it in a more sophisticated style and a developed color sense which marked his evolution as an artist in the early 20th century.*

EXTEND

The Apaches! depicts the soldiers' point of view as the rider warns of an Apache raid. If we could see the Apache Indians' point of view in another painting, what do you think it would look like? Describe or sketch the scene. Research the Apache Indians, their culture, and actions during the late 1800s. Write and illustrate a story about these two very different cultures meeting.

