

# Yes, You Can Teach Art!



## help · for · homeschoolers



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### A YEAR OF ART FREEBIES · The Ride of Paul Revere

Want to really get to know a famous painting? Try recreating your own version! But where do you start and how do you do it? The step-by-step instruction found in this free lesson from Karen Bauch of Teach Art at Home uses Grant Wood's folk art depiction of Paul Revere's ride. Along with the Battle of Lexington and Concord, this event is remembered every April in Massachusetts on Patriot's Day.

**Revere's Ride Art lesson:** [http://www.teachartathome.com/grant\\_wood.htm](http://www.teachartathome.com/grant_wood.htm)  
**Print a copy of Grant Wood's painting:** <http://picturingamerica.neh.gov/>

In the lesson, Bauch provides a printable grid and demonstrates how to transfer the painting's primary lines to that grid, then onto the paper of your choice. You can then complete the image using paint, crayon, pastel or ink.

The great painters of the past often used the copying of masterpieces as their main way to learn how to draw and paint. Each time you carefully reproduce a great work of art, you are adding a little of that style to your own style and have learned new techniques. ~ Karen Bauch

# Yes, You Can Teach Art!



Concord Minuteman

Old North Bridge



## A YEAR OF SCULPTURE · The Minuteman and the Captain

The battle is also commemorated by two famous sculptures: one (left) by the Old North Bridge, site of the fighting in Concord; the other (next page) on Lexington Common, a few miles away where the first shots of the Revolution rang out. These statues are often confused with each other.

The Minuteman Statue (left) by Daniel Chester French, was made in 1874 to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle. It was the first commission given to the inexperienced 22-year-old, who went on to become America's preeminent monumental sculptor and the genius behind the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC.

French had only been studying art for three years when he won the commission to produce this statue. He was encouraged to pursue art by author Louisa May Alcott and his earliest teacher was her artist sister and Concord resident, May Alcott. French was paid \$1000 for the statue which enabled him to continue his education.

Imagine being trusted with this commission, never having cast a statue in bronze before, and rising to the occasion, producing such an inspiring and lifelike statue. Do you trust your children with tasks slightly beyond them? Tell them the story of Daniel Chester French and encourage them that they can do great things too.

# Yes, You Can Teach Art!



Concord Minuteman, detail  
Fecit: Latin 'he did it' or made it

## Captain John Parker, Lexington



The Concord Minuteman statue was initially meant to commemorate the first to die at the bridge that day, Captain Isaac Davis. But it has come to honor all of the Minutemen who were ready to leave their ploughs at a moment's notice and take up arms. About 2,000 militia and Minutemen had arrived on the scene to fight on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1775 and by day's end 20,000 from other communities were mobilized and on the march. Without their willingness to serve there would have been no change.

Daniel Chester French's statue stands by the peaceful flow of the Concord River, in the midst of preserved farmer's fields. However, the second statue associated with that day is found in the center of bustling Lexington, MA on the corner of the town green with cars driving constantly by. Perhaps its prominent location has led many to assume it must be the famous Daniel Chester French Minuteman.

The Lexington statue (left), sculpted by Massachusetts artist Henry Hudson Kitson and set up in 1900, commemorates Captain John Parker, leader of the Lexington troops that day in April 1775. It is not meant to portray a Minuteman (surprisingly, no Minutemen were present in Lexington.)

Both statues are well loved. But French's Concord Minuteman has become a national icon, used to promote War Bonds in World War II, while today it's found on US savings bonds and is the symbol of the US National Guard.

# Yes, You Can Teach Art!



## Your Family Art NOTEBOOK

**Print this newsletter.** Add to your Family Art Notebook.

**Start a sculpture section.**

**Print a copy of Grant Wood's painting** and place in a sheet protector along with your child's Grant Wood reproduction.

## PLUS

**Hang copies of the next two pages** on your fridge in sheet protectors.

## A YEAR OF GOOD READS · Take It Further

Read Ralph Waldo Emerson's poem, **Concord Hymn**, found on the obelisk across the Old North Bridge from the statue. The first stanza is also inscribed on the statue's base. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concord\\_Hymn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concord_Hymn)

Read Longfellow's 1860 poem, **The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere**. Both poems would be good to recite, copy, use to learn about rhyming words etc. <http://www.paulreverehouse.org/ride/poem.shtml>

Also, try finding another narrative or storytelling poem, and illustrate it.

## Other Links

**Watch a short film** reenacting Revere's ride. <http://tinyurl.com/revere-ride>

**Take a virtual tour** of Revere's Midnight Ride and look for other artwork depicting the event. <http://www.paulreverehouse.org/ride/virtual.shtml>

Paul Revere was **best known for** producing objects of sought-after beauty. <http://tinyurl.com/rev-sil> **Are there any near you?** <http://tinyurl.com/cdt5qx>

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<http://www.yesyoucanpublications.com/teach-art-news-offer.html>

# *Yes, You Can Teach Art!*



## A YEAR OF ART QUESTIONS · Describe It

Look at the first statue for a few moments. What do you see? What else do you see?

Now look at the second statue (next page). What do you see?

What is the same between them? What is different?

Do you think they are made of the same materials? How would it feel to touch the statues?

Do you think the photographer was standing below the statue? How do you know?

The statues are not on the ground but are both standing on tall stone pedestals. Why do you think the sculptors did that?

How would you describe these statues to someone who couldn't see them?

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