

Series E, 1st Qtr, Week 12: Your Art Class Cruises

Riverboats, paddle boats, and steamboats remind us of days gone by when these wooden structures transported goods and people up and down the river. Circular paddles that go around are powered by steam from steam engines. The New Orleans Steamboat Company has been operating steamboats since 1817 and currently operates the Steamboat Natchez on tours up and down the Mississippi River. On board is the calliope, a steam powered organ type instrument with 32 steam powered whistles for Your Art Class on your riverboat cruise.

This lesson recommends the importance of using card stock because this lesson is about watercolor. The paper will ripple badly on regular paper. It will ripple with cardstock, however, if you turn it upside down and put a heavy book on it, the paper will flatten. So copy one of the black and white drawings on to cardstock or draw your own riverboat. When applying watercolor start with the sky and use broad horizontal strokes. Then do the water and use short horizontal strokes. When the sky is dry do your background. Finally do the boat. For white, just leave the paper. You got this!

Music Suggestion: Without a doubt the best song for this lesson is "Rolling on the River" performed by Tina Turner (1939-2023). Creedance Clearwater Revival, band group, first performed "Proud Mary." You may want to compare. Also listen to "Steamboat Natchez Calliope Concert."

Enrichment: Famous artist Jacob Lawrence (1917-2000) War Series "Another Patrol" reveals black men loading the gang plank (to a boat.) Some riverboat artwork: "City of St Paul" in Dubuque, Iowa by artist Alfred Thompson Bricher (1837-1908); and "Paddle Steamer Mark Twain" by Richard Hayley Lever (1875-1958). American author, Mark Twain's (1835-1910) "Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" are classic books highlighting river life.

Aspect of Art: Watercolor: Is an artist's Medium. Water activates the color. The artist can apply the color to paper with a brush. Watercolors are solid, water- based compounds.













