Key Question:

- How is Canadian Identity reflected in paintings and other works of art?
What are some forms of art?

- Painting
- Sculptures
- Photographs
- Graphic Designs
- Craft forms (knitting, embroidery, quilting, rug-hooking, etc.)
First Nations and Inuit

- Canada has a long history of visual art dating back to First Nations and Inuit peoples.
- From coast to coast Aboriginal peoples used, and continue to use a variety of art forms or media, to represent various aspects of their culture or beliefs.
- Some of these forms are traditional, while others are contemporary.
West Coast Peoples

- Used wood to make masks and totem poles
Inuit carved stone, antler and bone
The Innu use beadwork and painted patterns to decorate clothing.
Anishinabe make petroforms, boulders that are arranged on the ground in the shape of different animals.
Mi’kmaq and Maliseet

- Mi’kmaq and Maliseet peoples paint, etch, and embroider on birchbark. Many artists are skilled porcupine quillworkers, and make wampum belts from shells.
New France

- Many of the earliest works in New France in the 1500s and 1600s were religious works painted by priests.
- They were professional painters, sent to create works of art to beautify churches.
- There were also many self-taught painters who created “folk art”, depicting both everyday life and religious themes.
- Young wood carvers taught to create sculptures for churches –beginning a tradition of sculpting in Quebec.
British North America

- Wealthy citizens often paid artists to paint portraits of their families or themselves.
- What citizens would not be represented in these paintings? Why is the lack of these individuals significant?
- Some military officers in the 1700s had been trained to do topographic drawings (documentary painting).
- What can these paintings tell us?
Interpreting Visuals

- See page 4 of your text book.
Heritage Minute

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnhM0uD1cxA
Canada’s Natural Beauty

- Canada’s natural beauty has always been an important subject for artists.
- Many paintings include images of rivers, lakes, and oceans as well as the people who used them for work and play.
- As more immigrants arrived in the 1800s, new artists appeared, adding to the diversity in Canadian art.
- Likewise, photography improved after 1850 providing more images of landscapes and people during this era.
Group of Seven

- The Group of Seven was a group of Canadian landscape painters from 1920 to 1933.
- They were initially drawn together by a common sense of frustration with the conservative quality of most Canadian art up to that point.
- Rebelled against the prevalent style, shifting emphasis away from realism toward the expression of their personal feeling for their subjects.
Arthur Heming (1870-1940)

- An avid northern explorer, his work helped to entrench perceptions of Canada as the "Great White North."
- Many of Heming's paintings begin with naturalistic elements, which he exaggerated into wild, even surreal compositions intended to emphasis the "virtues" of Canada as a sort of snowy Eden
- However, he also dealt with images of hardship and death in the north.