City Park Oak Portraits

NEW ORLEANS CULTURAL STUDIO | LESSON 57 | GRADES K–2 | CULTURE & SOURCES

Context before technique

City Park is a longstanding public space known for its mature live oaks.

Whose story is being told?

Teach this lesson through identified New Orleans institutions and, where possible, community-authored testimony. Name the people, places, and historical context in your examples. Explain what remains unknown or contested.

Responsible artistic engagement

Students may draw another familiar tree or accessible photograph; avoid suggesting all students visit the park.

Visual permissions

Do not download photographs or artwork from source websites for public display unless permission or a valid license is confirmed. A live research link is not a license. The included lesson illustration is original conceptual artwork and not historical evidence.

Starter research sources

City Park: History and Live Oaks

https://neworleanscitypark.org/about/park-history/

City Park: Enrique Alférez Sculpture Garden

https://neworleanscitypark.org/visit-city-park/botanical-garden/

Louisiana Visual Arts Benchmarks

Louisiana Department of Education arts standards (official PDF)

Discussion prompts

- Who created or maintains this tradition, space, or object?
- What do outsiders often overlook?
- Which images would require permission, and whose voices are missing?

Teaching note

These starter sources support inquiry, not a complete ethnography. Prioritize up-to-date local perspectives and appropriately compensated cultural partnerships when possible.