Second-Line Parasol Stories

NEW ORLEANS CULTURAL STUDIO | LESSON 59 | GRADES 3–5 | CULTURE & SOURCES

Context before technique

New Orleans second lines are organized by Black social aid and pleasure clubs rooted in community support.

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

Attribute club traditions; do not impersonate living clubs or duplicate their insignias.

Visual permissions

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Starter research sources

HNOC: Social Aid and Pleasure Club Narratives

https://hnoc.org/club-narratives

New Orleans: Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs

https://www.neworleans.com/things-to-do/music/history-and-traditions/social-aid-and-pleasure-clubs/

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.