Film Worksheet

BBC, *Hokusai: Old Man Crazy to Paint*

1. Where and when was Hokusai born? How was he brought up?

In Edo (Tokyo) middle of 18th century. Consumer society. Working class district, but adopted by artisians.

East bank of Sumdia river. River associated with pleasure, bankquits and fireworks. By 6, drawing.

2. What was the “Floating World” school of art in Edo (Tokyo)?

Huge school of popular culture art. The world of downtown Edo.

3. What was Hokusai’s first apprenticeship?

Woodblock cutter. First thing as an artist, learned to cut blocks..

4. What role did religion play in Hokusai’s life? Who was Myoken? What does name Hokusai mean?

Buddhism. Myoken is a Buddhist deity associated with the north star. It means North Star Studio. One point of the heavens that does not move. Spiritual strength.

5. What defining event occurred as Hokusai left the Temple of Myoken?

Stuck by lightning, fell into rice field, turned into amazing artist?

6. When he was 45 years old, he caught the attention of the Shogun. Describe the painting that he produced for him.

Brushed blue paint on the length of the paper. Took out a rooster, dipped the rooster’s feet in red ink. “autumn leaves on the river”. Clever trick.

7. What does the word “manga” mean? How are Hokusai’s manga different from contemporary Japanese manga?

“random drawings”. No storyline. Illustrated novels more like contemporary manga, which is a narrative.

8. In 1822, Hokusai received a major commission to produce drawings for Dutch merchants. What was revolutionary about these drawings?

Sires of paintings showing Japanese life. Unique Hybrid style, special recession (European ) single light scource casting shadows. Japanese and European style.

9. What is the concept behind Hokusai’s series *Thirty Six Views of Mt. Fuji?* Which work in this series is considered the greatest? Why?

Set up interesting pictures that make Mt Fuji the center of our world/universe. Sits almost like a buddha. The Great Wave was the most famous. Uses European perspective to his advantage. Very dramatized, fisher boats. Human effort dwarfed by nature.

In japan, Red Fuji. Fuji was important for national identity, wanted fuji in its glory. Never meant to be red…

10. In 1839, Hokusai’s home was destroyed in a fire. From that time on, he did not make any more drawings. What did he do instead? Describe the extraordinary technique he used in the Tiger and Dragon pendant pair.

Almost exclusively paintings. Worked in reverse, started with highlights and got progressively darker.