

Students: To complete this activity, you are going to be divided into cooperative groups. Each group will use the classroom computer to research the **biography** of America's famous sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. You will be learning about his life and work, which will help to make your visit more fun. All answers to the blanks will be found in the text as you advance from screen to screen. We look forward to meeting you when you come to Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site.

Now its time to begin: The Saint-Gaudens website is found on the internet at: **www.sgnhs.org**

Click on Saint-Gaudens' **EARLY YEARS**
early years

Augustus Saint-Gaudens lived from _____ to _____. He was _____
(date) (date)
born in _____, _____. His father came from _____;
(city) (country) (country)
his mother was _____. When Augustus was _____ old, the family
(nationality) (age)
immigrated to _____ to escape the disastrous potato famine in
(country)
Ireland.
They settled in _____-. Augustus went to school until the age
(city)
of _____, (which is the equivalent of grade 8 today.) It was time for him to learn
(age)
a *trade*. Since he showed promise as an artist, he was *apprenticed* to
a _____ cutter, where he worked for _____ years. At night he took
(carved gem) (number)
drawing lessons.

Vocabulary: (words to look up and understand)

immigrate cameo
trade
apprentice

Click on Saint-Gaudens'
early years

EARLY YEARS continued

Important experiences: Foreign study in Paris and Rome

In _____ Saint-Gaudens left the United States to continue his art education
(date)
at the _____, a famous art school in _____. He
(name of school in French) (city)
began to study _____. When the _____ war broke
(a type of art) (name of the war)
out, he had to flee to _____. This turned out to be a very happy
experience (city)
for him. Here he opened his first studio where he
created _____
(portraits)
and _____ *busts*. He also met _____, who later
(stone) (name)
became his wife. They were married in _____. In 1880, their
(date)
son _____ was born.
(date)

Vocabulary: (words to look up and understand)

bust

THE FINAL YEARS

Click on Saint-Gaudens
in Cornish

In 1887, Saint-Gaudens returned to France. He visited his cousins in the village of _____. Later, back in Paris, he exhibited four important works of sculpture in the famous Universal Exposition of 1900. These were

(1) _____, (2) the _____,
(name of sculpture) (name of sculpture)
(3) the _____, and (4) the _____.
(name of sculpture) (name of sculpture)

For all of these works he received the _____ (First Prize).
(name of prize in French)

Not feeling well, he was diagnosed with _____ and immediately returned to Cornish. He loved Cornish for the beauty of the landscape and the peace he felt here.
(disease)

Click on Saint-Gaudens
In Cornish

THE FINAL YEARS continued

Hoping to restore his health and strength with sports, he built a _____
(name of a sport)

and a giant _____. A new _____ was
(winter sport) (where an artist works)

built in 1904. Saint-Gaudens employed young sculptors, who worked as his assistants. They helped him with his larger sculptures, but when the large studio burned in 1904, the fire destroyed precious work and personal belongings.

A

new studio was built called the _____. (This building burned in
(name of this studio)

1944, and so there is no evidence of this studio today.) By 1906-07, the sculptor was too weak to work. He left notes and instructions for his assistants to follow so they could finish the sculptures. Saint-Gaudens died in _____ and is buried
(date)
at the Temple on the Cornish estate.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

From the Index, click
on The Art Works

We remember Saint-Gaudens for more than 200 sculptures which he completed during his lifetime. The types of work he did include (list six):
_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____ and _____.

Public Monuments, those sculptures which the general public sees in city parks, gardens, and cemeteries are some of the most important works. The monument to _____ in 1877-80 is Saint-Gaudens' first major
(name of Admiral)
commission and established his reputation as one of our country's finest sculptors.

(You will see this monument in Cornish.) Other Civil War monuments were done to honor _____, the _____,
(name) (first black regiment)
_____, _____, and another
(name of a General) (another General)
memorial to _____.
(name)

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MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS continued

from Index screen,
click on The Art Works

Relief Portraits: about three quarters of all Saint-Gaudens' work are *portraits*

modeled in very low relief. Relief has been defined as "drawing in clay." Most of these portraits were *commissioned* by private citizens. Saint-Gaudens liked to model children and animals. Can you find some examples?

_____ (1884-85), _____ (1882), or Saint-Gaudens' dog _____ (1884).

Coins and Medals: Saint-Gaudens was the first sculptor to design an American coin. His one cent piece was never minted, but in 1905-07 both the _____ and the _____ were produced. The twenty dollar coin has been called "the most beautiful coin ever minted in the United States." It is very valuable and is sought after by collectors.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS continued

A Bust is a portrait of a person, shown from the shoulders up. Saint-Gaudens

modeled his father _____ in 1867. This work was his very first sculpture, done when he was only 19 years old.

Cameos are relief portraits cut from shell or stone. They were a popular form of jewelry and could be made into earrings, pins or necklaces. Cutting cameos was an important skill for the young sculptor when he began creating _____, _____ and _____.

Vocabulary: (words to look up and understand)

portrait

The End