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Under the Wave Off Kanagawa Art Criticism Questions



Image: Katsushika Hokusai, *Under the Wave off Kanagawa*, also known as *The Great Wave*, from the series *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*, ca. 1830–32. Woodblock print; ink and color on paper. www.metmuseum.org. (CC0 1.0). Reference: Anderson, T. (1997). A model for art criticism: Talking with kids about art. *School Arts*, 97(1), 21–24.

Directions: I can answer the following art criticism questions about *Under the Wave off Kanagawa* using complete sentences. I can prepare to share my answers during a class discussion.

1. What are the first things I think and feel when looking at Hokusai's *Under the Wave off Kanagawa*?
2. How would I describe *Under the Wave off Kanagawa* to someone who has never seen it?
3. What is *Under the Wave off Kanagawa*'s focal point? What makes me look there? Why do I think that Hokusai chose to emphasize that area?
4. How did Hokusai's technical observational drawing skills and attention to details assist him in capturing the look and feel of *Under the Wave off Kanagawa*?
5. What would I be thinking if I were a passenger on one of the oshiokuri boats?
6. What can *Under the Wave off Kanagawa* teach us about waves?
7. Based on my descriptions and interpretations, is *Under the Wave at Kanagawa* an important artwork? I can explain my answer.