

POWERPOINT JEOPARDY GAME CLUES

Remington's Life:

Frederic Sackrider Remington was born in Canton NY on October 4th 1861, only child to Clara Sackrider and Seth Pierre Remington. Seth Remington was a Civil War hero, and was absent for much of the first 4 years of young Fred's life. After the Civil War was over, Seth returned home to Canton. 'Little Freddy,' as his parents called him, was adventurous. He adored his father and the heroic war stories he would tell. He was certain he would grow up to join the military. In his youth he also enjoyed fishing and camping, and spent hours in the horse stables studying the animals. When Fred was 11, the family moved to Ogdensburg NY, where Seth took a job on the St. Lawrence River, working as the Head of Customs. At 16, Fred was sent to boarding school, first in Vermont, then in Maine. He realized here that he would much prefer a fluid life as an artist over a strict military life. At age 18, he enrolled himself at Yale in the Fine Arts program. Here he enjoyed boxing and football far more than his Fine Art courses. At 19, his father became ill with tuberculosis and Fred left Yale to be at his bedside in Ogdensburg. Sadly, his father succumbed to the illness. Upon receiving his inheritance money from his father's will Fred decided to travel west. In Kansas, Remington became a part owner of a sheep ranch. He had dreamed of a farming life and of traveling west, but after realizing what the harsh life of a rancher was actually like, Remington decided to sell his share of the ranch. He traveled back to NY, now in his early twenties, and by chance met a lovely girl named Eva Caten. After courting her for a year, young Remington asked her father for permission to marry Eva. He was turned down, most likely due to Remington's lack of steady income and the need for Eva to remain at home; her father being a widower. Remington stayed in NY and worked as a clerk in Albany for a stint, before returning west to Missouri this time. In Kansas City he invested in a hardware store and also as a silent partner in a saloon. Around this period, young Remington started sending rough sketches to magazines, which eventually, after a brief show where he dressed as a cowboy and met with owner of Harper's magazine, Fred got some artwork in. Remington was beginning to be recognized as an artist. Again, he asked for Eva's hand, and this time was granted. He and Eva were married when Fred was 25. For the next 23 years, Remington worked as an artist and gained world fame. He travelled to Europe, Cuba, Mexico and Canada on assignments for the various magazines he worked for, all the while residing in New York State, (for the first part of their marriage in New York City, then later in New Rochelle, NY). He travelled out west with military groups chasing Geronimo, and covered various stories involving Native American groups in Canada, The United States, and Mexico. All the while he was sketching, collecting artifacts for his enormous studio, and working seven days a week. He befriended many famous people, including Theodore Roosevelt. In 1895, when he was 35, Remington tried his hand at sculpture. He produced his most famous work, *The Broncho Buster*, in clay in less than one year. It was cast into bronze using the sand casting method. Remington would go on to produce 21 more subjects in clay that would be cast into bronze, write several short stories, illustrate many books, and produce over 3,000 signed flatworks. He began working in the Impressionist's style in the 1900's, and began to steer away from the realistic style he had become so famous for. In 1908, Fred and Eva decided to build their dream home in Ridgefield, Connecticut, so Remington could be closer to Impressionist painters. Shortly after moving

into their dream home, (about 8 months after), Remington, a large man his whole life, died of appendicitis turned peritonitis in bed. The date was December 26th, 1909.

Art:

In Remington's early career as an artist, he became committed to detail. He produced intricate drawings that focused on figure rather than landscape. Having grown up the son of a Civil War hero and having traveled himself so much with the American Military, it is no surprise that military figures played such an important role in his work. He was a forefather in producing works that focused on action, sometimes resulting in tricky battle scenes involving the military, cowboys and Indians, most often including horses. The setting was almost always the same: the west. His first jobs required Remington to develop skills as an illustrator for Harper's magazine. He eventually took painting up, and in 1895, Remington tried his hand as a sculptor. In this same year, he created his first subject cast into bronze. It took him less than a year to complete *The Broncho Buster*. Initially, he chose the sand casting method with the Henry-Bonnard company from New York, NY. Wanting more control over the process and more say in the end result, Remington decided to switch foundries and processes. He eventually settled with the lost wax casting method at Roman Bronze Works, also of New York, NY. Colliers and Harper's were two magazines that promoted Remington, even asking him to portray himself as a fit and active cowboy for their readers, although he was often at times overweight and definitely, contrary to popular belief, from Northern New York.

Friends of Remington:

Remington had many friends. He was known to be generous and thoughtful. He loved the American West and was good friends with the author of the first American Western Novel, Owen Wister. Many friends of Remington's were met through his travels out west as he traveled with the American military. He wrote a detailed account during one such travel with the Buffalo Soldiers, the black military men who Remington came to admire so much. Powhatan Clarke, an American military figure who was close to Remington and also close with the Buffalo Soldiers, is depicted in one of Remington's paintings. He is seen rescuing a Buffalo Soldier named Corporal Scott. Another painting where Remington shows his affection for his friends is *The Charge of the Rough Riders*. Good pal Theodore Roosevelt is seen leading a troop of men up a hill. Although the title of the painting refers specifically to riders, Roosevelt is the only one seen riding a horse. Roosevelt would become, after that battle and return from Cuba to the U.S., the 26th president of the United States. Aside from painting, Remington also worked as a sculptor, a profession he began after a conversation with a neighbor's guest, artist Frederick Ruckstull. After watching Remington sketch a scene, and then erase his drawing and redraw it from another perspective, Ruckstull suggested that Remington take up the medium he preferred to work with: sculpture. This was on the premise that Remington was advanced and could see things in 3D. And sculpture proved to be a strong point for Remington. After taking up the medium in early 1895, and before his untimely death at 48 in 1909, Remington had produced 22 subjects in clay that were, or were to be, cast into bronze. Unfortunately, he never lived to see his final sculpture, *The Stampede*, in bronze. It is said that friend and fellow sculptor Sally James Farnham finished the piece and oversaw its completion in 1910.

Remington's Travels:

Frederic Remington enjoyed great success as an artist. This allowed himself and wife Eva to enjoy a lifestyle with comforts. He and Eva often travelled north to Remington's birthplace and his beloved St. Lawrence River. For a short while, the couple summered on the river near the 1000 Islands in Chippewa Bay. Here they purchased an island that they named Ingleneuk, meaning, Cozy Little Nook by the Fire. He often painted on Ingleneuk in the Impressionistic style, which he enjoyed to work with. Because of his career and the money he was making, Remington could afford to travel at the drop of a hat. And with railroad systems complete, there was no place Remington couldn't go in the North and West. One afternoon, while in New York City, Remington and friend Julian Ralph decided to go for a moose hunt. The two hopped the train and off north to Canada they went! He painted a self portrait while there which he titled *Antoine's Cabin*. He also took the train west on his first assignment, travelling with the Buffalo Soldiers, a group of African American U.S. military men who comprised the 9th and 10th cavalry and 24th and 25th infantry. At that point he was working as an illustrator and correspondent chasing Geronimo, the famous Apache Warrior. He did have to travel in other ways, too, however. When he went to Cuba to cover the Spanish American War, he travelled by ship. The trip resulted in his most widely known painting: *The Charge of the Rough Riders*.

The 200 Year Old Mansion:

When Frederic Remington unexpectedly died at the age of 48 in 1909, his wife Eva acquired all of his art works and copyrights. She came to Ogdensburg NY, where Remington once lived as a boy, and moved into a mansion called the Parish Mansion, which today is roughly 200 years old. Eva Remington left her collection consisting of all personal items and all of Fred's art to the city of Ogdensburg. In the 1920's the Remington Art Memorial was established. Today, we know the museum as the Frederic Remington Art Museum. The Frederic Remington Art Museum houses the world's largest collection of the Remington's personal items and also of Fred's art. The gorgeous white mansion has Ionic pillars supporting the porch and beautiful woodworking inside, much of which was handcrafted. Above the fireplace in the lobby there is an inscription detailing these words: "Good Friends, Good Cheer, Good Fire." A lampshade above the lobby desk and also a grandfather clock once were displayed in Remington's dream home in Ridgefield Connecticut. The two pieces were sold by the Tiffany Company. Of course, after spending you fair share of time enjoying the collection in the Museum and also the historic mansion, you can walk the short distance down to the St. Lawrence River, one of Remington's favorite places to be.