

Summary: Cultural Heritage

Tennessee Artists

Many artists from Tennessee have added to the state's cultural heritage. Belle Kinney, a sculptor, made statues of famous people from Tennessee, such as Andrew Jackson. She also made monuments about events in Tennessee history. Aaron Douglas, a painter, painted many murals on large walls. Some of his paintings are about African American history.

Kate Augusta Carl, a painter, taught art lessons in Tennessee. Then she went to China and painted pictures of Chinese leaders. Charles Frederick Decker, Sr., started a pottery business and made pots and other objects.

Tennessee Writers

Many writers from Tennessee have written stories and poems about Tennessee culture and traditions that honor their heritage. These works are read by people all over the world. James Agee wrote a book about southern farm families in the 1930s. Marilou Awiakta is a writer, poet, and storyteller. Her work honors the Cherokee and Appalachian cultures.

Robert Penn Warren's writings described life in the South. Patricia Carwell McKissack explores African American culture and traditions in her children's books.

Artists Around the World

We can learn about other cultures when we study art and writing from people around the world. Candido Portinari told stories about the life, history, and culture of Brazil through his paintings. El Anatsui shows the balance between change and tradition in Africa today through his sculptures. Chiyo-ni wrote Japanese poems about nature.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

honor *verb*, to show great respect for something

tradition *noun*, a culture's special way of doing something



After You Read

REVIEW How have Tennessee artists added to the state's cultural heritage?

Highlight five phrases that tell what artists have done.

REVIEW How have Marilou Awiakta and Patricia Carwell McKissack honored their cultural heritage?

Circle the words that tell what they did.

REVIEW In what ways can we learn about other cultures? Draw a box around the sentence that tells you the answer.