

THE ART OF TATTOO

(3 lesson plan sequence)

by Tanja Macek

UBC BEd Secondary Art

2014

Subject: Visual Art

Grade: 11/12

Time: 60 minutes

Big Idea or Theme: Personal Symbolism / Identity

Lesson Number: 1 of 3

Lesson Title: The Art of Tattoo

Rationale: We live in a contemporary visual culture in which icons & symbols are used extensively. With this lesson, students will gain a better understanding and awareness of these images and how they play a role in our everyday lives.

Lesson Link:

- *Connection With the Lives of the Students:* exploration of self-identity through personal attributes & symbology
- *Other Curriculum Areas:* Social Studies, History (prehistoric people/bronze age, Asian & Polynesian cultures/traditions, British & American Navy, WW1&2), Film & TV, Digital Media, Photography (tattoo in contemporary popular culture)
- *Previous Study/Prior Knowledge:* elements & principles of art & design

Vocabulary: attribute, balance, contrast, geometric, icon, index, line, mutiny, nautical, parallel, pattern, Polynesia, scrimshaw, subculture, subversive, symbol, symmetry, talisman, tone, value

Objectives: (Intended Learning Outcomes/Student Response)

- **CONTEXT:** develop and make images that explore concepts of personal identity, express and communicate personal ideas and emotions through image making
- **BEHAVIOUR:** identify characteristics of representations in images from various cultures
- **PRODUCT:** vocabulary, image development and design strategies, stylistic elements and principles of art and design (line, shape, form, space, tone, value, colour and texture)
- **STANDARD:** observe, reflect on, describe and analyze a variety of images, specify meaning in images

Prescribed Learning Outcomes (SWBATs):

- **Image-Development and Design Strategies (Creating/ Communicating):** Students create images reflecting their understanding of a wide variety of image sources, techniques, and image-development and design strategies.
- **Materials, Technologies, and Processes (Perceiving/ Responding):** Students perceive and respond to images from a variety of different types of artworks in ways that

demonstrate their understanding of how the choice of materials, technologies, and processes affects images.

Art Materials Necessary for the Lesson:

- pencils, erasers, pens, markers, paper, sketchbooks (students have their own supplies)

Teaching Resources Needed to Support the Lesson:

- projector, computer, internet access
- art of tattoo presentation (first half)
- whiteboard, dry erase markers

Assessment Plan/Criteria: (Did students achieve the objectives laid out in this lesson?)

- *Diagnostic Assessment:* Evaluate, monitor and adjust as the students respond to the introduction and the lesson, give verbal feedback, suggestions and demonstrations if required.
- *Formative Assessment:* Ongoing and daily, assess how well the objectives were achieved, depending on the results observed throughout and at the end of the lesson, observe how the lesson went and what can be re-taught or skipped over for the next lesson.
- *Summative Assessment:* Normally done at end of unit or topic discussion, not expected for every lesson, but it is necessary in the first lesson to gauge how to assess various learners in the classroom (in summary), if they have learned a reasonable percentage of what was taught.

Adaptations/Modifications/Extensions: Provide for ELL, IEP, Gifted/HL students if present in classroom. Can include key language terms, vocabulary to note, adapted assignments, modified expectations, connecting to the lesson and engaging through related information and specific extras, etc.

LESSON COMPONENTS

(Teaching/Student Activity)

Attendance (1-5 minutes)

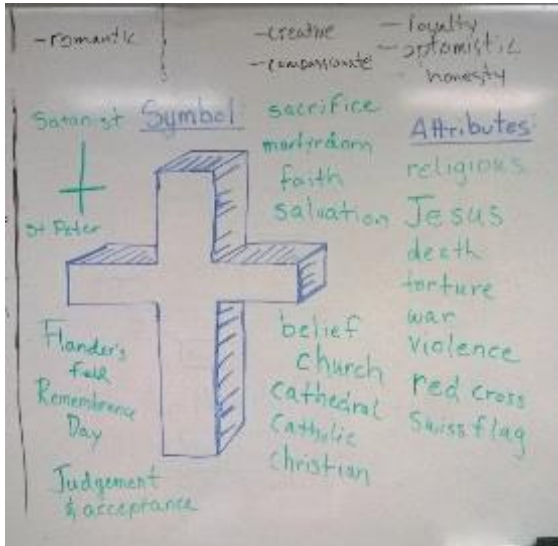
Hook (5 minutes): Show video clip from *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*.

Introduction (5-10 minutes): Explain to the class that we will be exploring the art of tattoo.

Development (about 30 minutes):

- presentation on tattoo history (prehistoric/bronze age, Japanese, Polynesian), cultural vs. subcultural/subversive
- video clips of the symbolism of the Rock's tattoo / Samoan tattooing
- students go outside the classroom/school and find 8-10 symbols each, then record/draw found symbols in their sketchbooks
- students return to classroom, we discuss symbols & icons (cell "phone" icon, computer "lock" & "save" icons, "peace" symbol, recycling symbol, washroom & handicap/male/female symbols, traffic symbols, etc.)

- large cross drawn on whiteboard under “symbol”, students think of “attributes” corresponding to that particular symbol



- tell students to think of 10 attributes for themselves and to write the attributes in their sketchbooks for next class (no drawing yet)
- send out email reminder to students to write down their personal attributes for next class (students will think about visual interpretation of their attributes/how to visually describe themselves in symbols in a following class)
- we will look at sailor & navy tattoos (symbols & attributes) in the next class

Closing (5-10 minutes): Briefly touch on upcoming lesson, allow time for students to ask questions, and for classroom/art materials clean-up if needed.

Follow-up / Reflection: Reflect on what worked, what didn't, what needs to be re-taught, reiterated for emphasis, etc. Send email reminder to class:

Email Reminder

Hello senior Art class!

An **attribute** is an inherent characteristic of an object, person or thing.

Synonyms: quality, characteristic, property, trait, feature, point, aspect, element

Here is your assignment for next class:

- 1) Have one **attribute** that you admire in another person ready for when I take attendance. You will be telling me and the class what that attribute is.
- 2) Have 10 personal attributes written in your sketchbooks for next class.

A hint on the next topic of discussion - think "nautical"...

Here's a helpful link:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=J93bkx4ufBw

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Subject: Visual Art

Grade: 11/12

Time: 60 minutes

Big Idea or Theme: Personal Symbolism / Identity

Lesson Number: 2 of 3

Lesson Title: The Art of Tattoo

Rationale: We live in a contemporary visual culture in which icons & symbols are used extensively. With this lesson, students will gain a better understanding and awareness of these images and how they play a role in our everyday lives.

Lesson Link:

- *Connection With the Lives of the Students:* exploration of self-identity through personal attributes & symbology
- *Other Curriculum Areas:* Social Studies, History (prehistoric people/bronze age, Asian & Polynesian cultures/traditions, British & American Navy, WW1&2), Film & TV, Digital Media, Photography (tattoo in contemporary popular culture)
- *Previous Study/Prior Knowledge:* elements & principles of art & design

Vocabulary: attribute, balance, contrast, geometric, icon, index, line, mutiny, nautical, parallel, pattern, Polynesia, scrimshaw, subculture, subversive, symbol, symmetry, talisman, tone, value

Objectives: (Intended Learning Outcomes/Student Response)

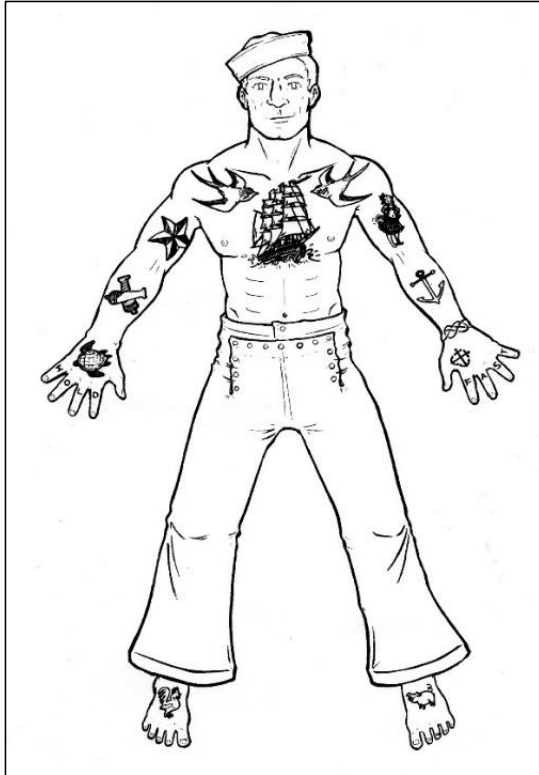
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- **STANDARD:** observe, reflect on, describe and analyze a variety of images, specify meaning in images

Prescribed Learning Outcomes (SWBATs):

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- **Materials, Technologies, and Processes (Perceiving/ Responding):** Students perceive and respond to images from a variety of different types of artworks in ways that demonstrate their understanding of how the choice of materials, technologies, and processes affects images.

Art Materials Necessary for the Lesson:

- pencils, erasers, pens, markers, paper, sketchbooks (students have their own supplies)
- cell phones/computers (for tattoo symbolism research)
- handouts (8.5x11" photocopies of tattooed sailor worksheet)



Teaching Resources Needed to Support the Lesson:

- projector, computer, internet access
- art of tattoo presentation (second half)
- whiteboard, dry erase markers

Assessment Plan/Criteria: (Did students achieve the objectives laid out in this lesson?)

- *Diagnostic Assessment:* Evaluate, monitor and adjust as the students respond to the introduction and the lesson, give verbal feedback, suggestions and demonstrations if required.
- *Formative Assessment:* Ongoing and daily, assess how well the objectives were achieved, depending on the results observed throughout and at the end of the lesson, observe how the lesson went and what can be re-taught or skipped over for the next lesson.
- *Summative Assessment:* Normally done at end of unit or topic discussion, not expected for every lesson, but it is necessary in the first lesson to gauge how to assess various learners in the classroom (in summary), if they have learned a reasonable percentage of what was taught.

Adaptations/Modifications/Extensions: Provide for ELL, IEP, Gifted/HL students if present in classroom. Can include key language terms, vocabulary to note, adapted assignments, modified expectations, connecting to the lesson and engaging through related information and specific extras, etc.

LESSON COMPONENTS

(Teaching/Student Activity)

Attendance (5-10 minutes): Each student will have one attribute ready that they will share with the class as their names are called.

Hook (5-10 minutes): Video clip of *The Bounty* showing context of British sailors being exposed to Tahitian culture, including tattooing.

Introduction (10-15 minutes): Quick recap of last lesson, presentation on projector (map of Polynesia / sailor & navy tattoos).

Development (about 20 minutes):

- students should have 10 personal attributes already written in their sketchbooks for class (email sent out to class as a reminder beforehand)
- each student gets a tattoo sailor worksheet, students go into groups of 2-3
- each group chooses one tattoo/symbolic meaning to work on
- each group will present their findings/notes to the class
- class discussion on symbols & attributes

Closing (5-10 minutes): Briefly touch on upcoming lesson, allow time for students to ask questions, and for classroom/art materials clean-up if needed.

Follow-up / Reflection: Reflect on what worked, what didn't, what needs to be re-taught, reiterated for emphasis, etc. Send email reminder to class:

Email Reminder

Hello senior Art class!

Here are some more examples of symbols and their attributes that you might find helpful in the design of your own personal symbols for next class...

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Animal Symbolism

Ant: diligence, industry, community, remarkable strength, hardworking, success, patience
Badger: aggression, healing, architect
Bat: rebirth, longevity, joy, good luck, dreaming, union
Bear: gentle strength, dreaming, introspection, power, protection, healing
Beaver: builder, accomplishing goals, family, industriousness
Bee: divine messenger, love, service, gathering, community, Goddess, rebirth
Bird: enlightenment, perspective, swiftness, vision, prophetic knowledge
Boar: bravery, honor, fertility
Butterfly: rebirth, the soul, transformation, the three phases of life, joy
Buffalo (Bison): abundance, strength, determination
Cat: feminine energy, mystical power, used to keep the wearer safe in travel, wholeness, independence, psychic, and hunter
Coyote: trickster, adaptation, intelligence
Crane: transforming action, dance, meditation
Cricket: good luck charm, singing, Spring, fertility
Crow (Raven): sacred/natural law, gateway to supernatural, shape shifting, illusion, council / magic, messenger, divine trickster
Deer: graceful gentleness, sensitivity, compassion, kindness, magic, alertness
Dingo: guardian, psychic, adaptability
Dog: companionship, health, service, loyalty, protection, future prosperity, love, guardian
Dolphin: manna, joy, childlike play, helpfulness, breath of life, harmony, intelligence, self-connection, protection, sexuality
Dragonfly: good fortune, magic, vision, dreams, luck, and ancient knowledge, illusion
Dragon: wisdom due to long lives and potent magic, royalty, Emperor, eternity, courage, strength, rain, Spring
Duck: abundance, play, feelings
Eagle: messenger, spirit, vision
Elk: masculine power, territory, brotherhood
Falcon: striking, velocity, all seeing
Fish: miracles, providence, sea/water magic, good luck and prosperity, foresight, fortune, salmon in particular, are associated with knowledge
Fox: camouflage, adaptability, integration, tricksters, shape shifters, and possessors of great magic, family, survival, voice
Frog: healing, cleansing, messages, health, honesty, fluidity, purification, song, fertility
Goose: soul, leadership, guardian
Grasshopper: nobility, prosperity
Hawk: messenger, presence, precision
Heron: guardian, focus, mirror

Horse: power, stamina, speed, transportation and communication, freedom, sharing, mystery (a black horse with a white marking on its forehead is lucky)

Hummingbird: joy, pure love, celebration of life, beauty

Jaguar: shaman, integrity, self-awareness

Kangaroo: conservation of energy, timing, fertility

Koala: introspection, appreciation, transforming toxins

Ladybug: delight, trust, awakening, introspection, protector

Lizard: dreaming, illumination, protection

Mole: inner knowledge, exploring the depths, lower world

Monkey: movement, inquisitiveness, social equilibrium

Moose: wisdom of the stones, masculinity, voice

Mountain Lion (Cougar): balance, courage, independence

Mouse: touch, trust, sensitivity

Osprey: seeking, four directions, purpose

Otter: medicine (woman), balanced feminine energy, play, go with the flow

Owl: deception, wisdom, clairvoyance, magic, intuition, hunter

Peacock: wholeness, dignity, beauty, recognition, self-assurance, pride

Penguin: respect, loyalty, subconscious

Pig: rebirth and rejuvenation

Possum: spirit journeys, upper world, knowledge

Rabbit: fear, fertility, moon magic, speed, swiftness, longevity, courage, strength, humility, abundance, love

Raccoon: dexterity, disguise, trickster, magic

Reindeer (Caribou): equality, balance, frugality

Robin: growth, renewal

Rooster: courageous, warlike disposition, warmth and life of the Universe

Salmon: rebirth, plenty, wisdom

Scorpion: the "fire within" that often needs careful tending

Seal: inner voice, soul, provision, threshold

Sheep: sacrifice

Skunk: warning, reputation, respect

Snake: cunning, evil, supernatural power, creation, life force energy, renewal

Spider: destiny, fate, weaving

Squirrel: foresight, inner fire, shaman

Swan: flow, grace spirituality

Turtle: mother earth, protection, introspection, stillness

Weasel: boldness, rapidity, perception

Whale: history, communication, ancient knowledge

Wolf: teacher, a guide to the Sacred, pathfinder, family, moon

Woodpecker: warrior, drumming, waves

Colour Symbolism

(Colours in the Western World)

Red: excitement, energy, passion, love, desire, speed, strength, power, heat, aggression, danger, fire, blood, war, violence, all things intense and passionate

Pink: symbolizes love and romance, caring, tenderness, acceptance and calm

Beige / Ivory: symbolize unification / Ivory symbolizes quiet and pleasantness / Beige symbolizes calm and simplicity

Yellow: joy, happiness, betrayal, optimism, idealism, imagination, hope, sunshine, summer, gold, philosophy, dishonesty, cowardice, jealousy, covetousness, deceit, illness, hazard and friendship

Blue: peace, tranquility, cold, calm, stability, harmony, unity, trust, truth, confidence, conservatism, security, cleanliness, order, loyalty, sky, water, technology, depression, appetite suppressant

Turquoise: calm / Teal symbolizes sophistication / Aquamarine symbolizes water / lighter turquoise has a feminine appeal

Purple: royalty, nobility, spirituality, ceremony, mysterious, transformation, wisdom, enlightenment, cruelty, arrogance, mourning

Lavender: femininity, grace and elegance

Orange: energy, balance, enthusiasm, warmth, vibrant, expansive, flamboyant, demanding of attention

Green: nature, environment, healthy, good luck, renewal, youth, spring, generosity, fertility, jealousy, inexperience, envy, misfortune, vigor

Brown: earth, stability, hearth, home, outdoors, reliability, comfort, endurance, simplicity, and comfort

Grey: security, reliability, intelligence, staid, modesty, dignity, maturity, solid, conservative, practical, old age, sadness, boring / Silver symbolizes calm

White: reverence, purity, birth, simplicity, cleanliness, peace, humility, precision, innocence, youth, winter, snow, good, sterility, marriage (Western cultures), death (Eastern cultures), cold, clinical

Black: power, sexuality, sophistication, formality, elegance, wealth, mystery, fear, evil, unhappiness, depth, style, evil, sadness, remorse, anger, anonymity, underground, good technical color, mourning, death (Western cultures)

(Colours in the Eastern World)

Pink: marriage

Green: eternity, family, harmony, health, peace, posterity

Red: happiness

Grey: helpful

Blue / Purple: wealth

White: children, helpful people, marriage, mourning, peace, purity, travel

Gold: strength, wealth

Black: evil or sadness

Other Examples of Symbolism

Apple: can mean love, knowledge, wisdom, joy, death, and/or luxury

Anchor: hope, steadfastness, salvation, stability, and/or tranquility

Arrow: a highly phallic image, evoking notions of piercing, penetrating masculinity, becoming the predominant symbol of the universal Father and of fathers in general

Bell: joy and freedom

Bones: the indestructible life, yet also may represent mortality and the transitory

Bridge: communication and union

Book: knowledge and wisdom

Candle: light in the darkness of life especially individual life, illumination; it is the symbol of holy illumination of the spirit of truth

Castle: enclosure, of the walled and defended city; often, the castle holds some treasure

Circle: represents the notions of totality, wholeness, original perfection, the Self, the infinite, eternity, timelessness, all cyclic movement

Door: transition and metamorphosis

Earth: commonly seen as feminine, the great Mother, nourishment, fertility, infinite creativity, and/or longevity

Egg: new life, life-energy

Eyes: clairvoyance, omniscience, and/or a gateway into the soul

Feather: absolute lightness, flight, the element of wind and air

Fire: consumes, warms, and illuminates, but can also bring pain and death

Flower: universal symbols of young life, beauty, lust and the realm of the erotic

Garden: an earthly paradise, soul, innocence and happiness

Gate: entryway into an unknown place, or a place of great significance, it is a threshold, and may connect the living and the dead

Halo: emphasizes wisdom and life force emanating from the head, and it usually tied with the notion of the supernatural

Hand: in general it is strength, power and protection; however, it can just as easily mean generosity, hospitality and stability
 Heart: the locus of physical and spiritual being, compassion and understanding, life-giving and complex, love
 House: a sacred place and it is an image of the universe; it parallels the sheltering aspect of the great Mother, and it is the center of civilization
 Ivy: eternity and life, immortality
 Key: powers of opening and closing, and denotes liberation, knowledge, mystery, and initiation
 Ladder (Stairs): the connection between heaven and earth
 Lightning: traditional symbol of sudden illumination and the destruction of ignorance
 Mask: hiding emotion and personality
 Mirror: reflection of the soul; absolute truth
 Moon: the rhythm of time, the cycles of the moon symbolize immortality and eternity
 Mountain: divine inspiration and it is the focus of pilgrimages of transcendence and spiritual elevation
 Necklace: dignity and office, but is also a binding symbol; it is the threading together, or connection
 Night: ignorance, the unconscious, and latent potential, sleep, dreams, sexual pleasure, and death
 Ocean: the beginning of life on Earth, and symbolizes formlessness, the unfathomable, and chaos, it can also be seen as a symbol of stability
 Pearl: perfection and incorruptibility, long life and fertility
 Pillar: the bridge between heaven and earth, the vertical axis which both unites and divides these two realms, it also represents stability, and a broken pillar represents death and mortality
 Queen: the great feminine principle
 Rain: may either serve as life-giving or life-destroying, it is revitalizing, fertilizing, and heavenly, and often marks acts of purification
 Rainbow: heavenly glory, of celestial wonder, the rainbow often symbolizes transfiguration, and behaves as a bridge between earth and Paradise
 River: life itself, a rite of passage that has just been completed
 Rock: the ultimate embodiment of permanence, stability, and reliability
 Star: the presence of divinity
 Sun: the absolute cosmic power, the universal Father
 Thorn: sin, sorrow and hardship
 Train: social life, destiny
 Tree: the feminine, nourishing, sheltering image of the great Mother, evocative of eternity
 Umbrella: the canopy of the heavens, shelter, and protection
 Unicorn: healing powers, purity and strength
 Valley: fertility and life
 Veil: the pre-enlightened state, hidden knowledge, secrecy, illusion, and ignorance
 Water: life, birth, fertility and refreshment
 Web: an intricate network of space and time, the great cosmic plan
 Wheel: movement
 Whirlpool (Spiral): the source of life
 Yin-Yang: universal complimentary opposites, dualities
 Zero: the absence of all, without quantity or quality, the perfect form, the ultimate mystery

Subject: Visual Art

Grade: 11/12

Time: 60 minutes

Big Idea or Theme: Personal Symbolism / Identity

Lesson Number: 3 of 3

Lesson Title: The Art of Tattoo

Rationale: We live in a contemporary visual culture in which icons & symbols are used extensively. With this lesson, students will gain a better understanding and awareness of these images and how they play a role in our everyday lives.

Lesson Link:

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Objectives: (Intended Learning Outcomes/Student Response)

- **CONTEXT:** develop and make images that explore concepts of personal identity, express and communicate personal ideas and emotions through image making

- Prescribed Learning Outcomes (SWBATs):**

- Art Materials Necessary for the Lesson:**

- ### Teaching Resources Needed to Support the Lesson:

- [illegible]

- *Diagnostic Assessment:* Evaluate, monitor and adjust as the students respond to the introduction and the lesson, give verbal feedback, suggestions and demonstrations if required.
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LESSON COMPONENTS

(Teaching/Student Activity)

Attendance (1-5 minutes)

Hook (5-10 minutes): Show the symbol of “the artist formerly known as Prince” and ask students to guess the attributes of this particular symbol.

Introduction (10-15 minutes): Explain/demonstrate to the class what pen & ink work is (show techniques/sample board & pens/nibs & India ink).

Development (about 20-30 minutes):

- hand out pens/nibs & ink & paper to students
- students will work individually on their personal symbols, using pen & ink on paper
- students have the option of leaving their work in black & white, or colouring it in with pencil crayons or watercolour paint
- students can take work home if need be, and bring finished work back for next class

Closing (5-10 minutes): Tell students that their finished work will be hung up in the classroom for display and we will have a short class critique on everyone’s work at the start of next class. Briefly sum up the lesson, allow time for students to ask questions, and for classroom/art materials clean-up if needed.

Follow-up / Reflection: Reflect on what worked, what didn't, what needs to be re-taught, reiterated for emphasis, etc.

List of video clips and links:

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo - Meet Lisbeth:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=gEW1hgCmOiE#t=7

Sulu'ape Tatau (Samoan tattooing):

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=BqGQa7HB_1g

The Untold Story Behind The Rock's Tattoo:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=BbC65PpBojM

THE BOUNTY (tattooing):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSifu23RpYE>

Prison Tattoos and Their Secret Meanings:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=hOQ5TIAtXuM

Eastern Promises - Tattoo Ceremony:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=fRdo188PjXA#t=154