Activity 1 - Look and Think

Use this photograph to answer the questions.

Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848—1907), Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Regiment Memorial, Boston, MA, 1884—1897. Bronze, 11 x 14 ft. (3.35 x 4.27 m.). Photograph courtesy of Carol M. Highsmith.

I. Observe

1. Circle 3 canteens with blue.
2. Circle 3 bedrolls with yellow.
3. Draw a blue line on the rider’s sword.
4. Circle the figure in the sky with red.
5. Circle the drummer with orange.
6. Draw 3 yellow parallel lines through 3 parallel legs.
7. Draw 3 straight green lines on three rifle barrels.
8. Circle a flag with red.
9. Circle the olive branch with purple.
10. Describe two faces. Circle the faces you describe with orange.

   How are they alike?

   How are they different?

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St. Gaudens – Shaw Memorial

Activity 1 - Look and Think – continued

II. Analyze
1. Circle the highest man’s head with blue.
2. Draw an arrow below the picture showing the direction they are moving.
3. How did the artist make some figures and objects look closer to you than others?
4. This sculpture is a relief, or a sculpture designed to be looked at from the front, with areas that come out from the background. Bas-relief is a very shallow relief with features that are slightly raised from the background. Color a bas-relief object on the sculpture pink.
5. Parts of this sculpture are actually freestanding or three-dimensional sculpture. Color the head of one of these freestanding figures yellow.
6. Which figure seems most important?
7. How did the artist call attention to this figure to make him seem most important?

III. Infer
These words are carved in marble below the bronze relief:

ROBERT GOULD SHAW
COLONEL OF THE FIFTY FOURTH REGIMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS INFANTRY BORN IN BOSTON 10 OCTOBER MDCCXXXVII KILLED WHILE LEADING THE ASSAULT ON FORT WAGNER SOUTH CAROLINA 18 JULY MDCCCLXIII

1. What are these men doing? Explain why you think this.
2. What race or ethnic group are these marching men?
3. Describe the mood of these men.
4. Who or what might the figure in the sky represent?
5. The bas-relief Latin words above and to the right of the horse’s head are:

OMNIA RELINQVIT / SERVARE REMPVBLCAM

The English translation of this is: “He relinquished everything to serve the Republic.” Write what this means in your own words.

6. Usually Civil War monuments to a military hero feature one standing man or an equestrian (horseback rider.) Artist Augustus Saint-Gaudens shows Colonel Robert G. Shaw with his men. What seems to be the message of this monument?