Activity Three: Worksheet

Student Name ___________________________________________________ Date ________________

Answer the following question. You may investigate the images and text provided on the web site Ukiyo-e Woodblock Prints and Books, available through the EDSITEment reviewed web resource The American Memory Project: Library of Congress.

1. How many people usually worked together to make a woodblock print? What were the responsibilities of each of the people who took part in the creation of a woodblock print?
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2. What do you think was the advantage of having more than one artist work on making each print?
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3. There may have been twenty, fifty, one hundred or more copies of each image. How is this different from the creation of a painting by a single artist? What are the advantages of this method? What are the disadvantages?
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4. The craftsmen who worked together to create woodblock prints were often organized by a publisher. Considering what you already know about what publishers do, are you surprised that there were publishers of artworks? Why was a publisher a necessary part of not only the book making, but also the printmaking process?
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5. With this team process for making woodblock prints artists and publishers were able to produce larger numbers of images at a faster rate, which meant both that there were more images to be purchased and that the price of each piece was lower than it would have been for unique art works. Who was the new audience- and market- for these images? How did you come to this conclusion?
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