



# Smithsonian's History Explorer Podcast

## Teacher Guide



## Crockett Johnson: Art and Math in the Days of Sputnik

*with curator Peggy Kidwell*

**Podcast Link:** <http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/crockett.mp3>

**Enhanced Podcast Link:** <http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/crockett.m4a>

**Images Link:** <http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/crockett.zip>

### Discussion Questions:

- How does the mathematical artwork of Crockett Johnson fit into the history of 1950s and 60s America?
- Why did the United States begin to place a larger emphasis on math and science education during this time period?
- Think about art and popular culture during this time period, in what other instances do you see connections to the Space Race?

### Related Resources—for continued instruction or resources for your students' research

National Museum of American History:

- Mobilizing Minds: Teaching Math and Science in the Age of Sputnik  
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/mobilizing-minds/teaching-mathematics-and-science-home>
- Mathematical Paintings of Crockett Johnson  
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object-groups/mathematical-paintings-of-crockett-johnson>

Thinkfinity:

ArtsEdge: Sputnik— <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/multimedia/AudioStories/art-space/sputnik.aspx>

Illuminations: Geometry in the World of Art— <http://illuminations.nctm.org/LessonDetail.aspx?ID=L558>

### National Standards—from the National Center for History in the Schools

- NSH (5-12) US Era 9 Standard 3: Domestic policies after World War II

*Have your students email their question, comments, and discoveries to [thinkfinity@si.edu](mailto:thinkfinity@si.edu)*

Find this podcast and more at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/podcasts>



# Smithsonian's History Explorer Podcast



Name:

Date:

Period:

Topic:

Listen to the podcast, take notes, and answer the questions.

1. How does the mathematical artwork of Crockett Johnson fit into the history of 1950s and 60s America?

2. Why did the United States begin to place a larger emphasis on math and science education during this time period?

3. Think about art and popular culture during this time period, in what other instances do you see connections to the Space Race?

**Email your questions, comments, and discoveries to [thinkfinity@si.edu](mailto:thinkfinity@si.edu)**

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