

## World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

**Teacher Name:** Joanna Wos **Humanities Discipline:** Art Appreciation ARTH110 **Date:** Feb. 25, 2016

**World Religion:** Christianity **Teaching Module Title:** Christian History in the United States and Indianapolis

### Teaching Module Goals:

To show the influence of the teachings of the Society of Friends (Quakers) on the artistic work of the American artist, James Turrell, specifically in terms of his interest in the use of light.

### Assigned Readings:

Basics for Newcomers. Quaker Resources. Friends General Conference:

[www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org)

Frequently Asked Questions about Quakers. Friends General Conference: [www.fgcquaker.org/explore/faqs-about-quakers](http://www.fgcquaker.org/explore/faqs-about-quakers)

James Turrell: "Live Oak Friends Meeting House": <http://art21.org> Go to "Artists". Go to "James Turrell", go to "Texts", go to "Interview: James Turrell: "Live Oak Friends Meeting House"

Hylton, W. S. *Alternate Realities of James Turrell*. The New York Times Magazine. June 16, 2013.

Durham, G. *God, the Spirit and the Light Within*, in *The Spirit of the Quakers*, Yale University Press, New Haven and London

### Assigned Viewings:

James Turrell (American, 1941-). *Acton*. (1976). 1989.111. At Indianapolis Museum of Art. Currently on View in The Nagler Family Gallery (K412).

Art: 21 - Art in the 21st Century: Season 1. (2001). *Spirituality:James Turrell*. Video. PBS.

### Study Questions:

1. Give a brief synopsis of the history and beliefs of the Society of Friends in America.
2. Describe the religious experience summed up in the terms "Light within", "Inner Light", "Standing in the Light", "Hold someone in the Light", and "Inward Light".
3. How did James Turrell's religious background impact his decision to use light as the primary visual element incorporated in his art?
4. Why is his skyscape, in the Live Oak Friends Meeting House in Houston, TX, appropriate for the setting?

Write a one page narrative, incorporating the answers to the study questions, discussing how the religious beliefs of the Society of Friends influenced James Turrell's use of light in his art, specifically in the Live Oak Friends Meeting House.