

Japanese Ukiyo-e Foam Art

Subject: Visual Arts

Grade: Third

Content Objective:

Create a Japanese Ukiyo-e inspired art piece

Behavior Objective:

During whole group instruction at their desks and on the rug, students are expected to have their eyes on the teacher or whomever is speaking. They are also expected to be listening, paying attention, and engaged. If they become distracted, I will pull them back to the lesson by using a guided call or thank other students who are on task in hopes to trigger them back to the lesson.

When students are working in small groups, they may raise their hand if they have a question or form an O over their head if they are finished with their task.

Standards:

CCSS.VA.Cr1.1

Elaborate on an imaginative idea

CCSS.VA.Cr1.2

Apply knowledge of available resources, tools, and technologies to investigate personal ideas through the art-making process

CCSS.VA.Cr2.1

Create personally satisfying artwork using a variety of artistic processes and materials

CCSS.VA.Pr6

Investigate and explain how and where different cultures record and illustrate stories and history of life through art

Materials:

- Styrofoam plate
- Scissors
- Dull pencil / Ballpoint pen
- Paint

Previous Knowledge:

Students have been introduced to Japanese Ukiyo-e art pieces and discussed the detail that goes into creating them. This was part of an Asian cultural art unit.

Lesson:

I will state the purpose of the lesson: Create a Japanese Ukiyo-e art piece and explain how we are going to create our own “wood block print” with household materials. I will bring this style of art up a handful of times throughout the lesson to ensure students are aware of what we are learning today and which Asian culture it emphasizes.

Guided Practice:

Once the lesson’s purpose has been stated, I will ask students to not touch their materials until I have explained the lesson in its entirety. I will go over the history of the Japanese culture and how they would use wood block prints to express a variety of cultural things in the form of Ukiyo-e print pieces.

From there, I will ask them to begin thinking about what they would like to create via this art form. I will also support their thinking by providing art examples such as nature, waves, women, children, etc.

Once students have an idea in place I will assist in cutting off the rim of their Styrofoam plates to create a flat round disc. Then, they will begin to “carve” their print design into the foam by pushing the dull pencil or closed ballpoint pen deep into the foam. I will also emphasize that while they need to push deeply into the foam, they shouldn’t go all the way through the foam creating a hole.

When the students have finished their carving, they will take paint and cover the foam entirely. This will leave the design behind in white, because the carved lines will be deeper than the surface being painted. This will create the look of the “woodblock” print without having to cut apart too many materials.

Debrief:

After students have completed their work, I will call them to the rug while the paint dries on their masterpieces. We will discuss why they chose the designs they did and how they relate to the Japanese Ukiyo-e examples we discussed at the beginning of the lesson. Finally, I will repeat the content objective to really drive home the purpose of today’s lesson: “This is why today we created Japanese Ukiyo-e style art.”