

Lesson Plan

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To: Linda Stevenson

Illuminated Letters- Observing and Designing with the Elements and Principles of Art Elem- HS

Background Information:

Before the days of printing presses and mass-produced, full-color books—before the e-reader was even imagined—books were written, decorated and painted by hand, one page at a time, often by monks quietly working for hours upon hours in their monasteries.

They wrote on parchment (a stiff, flat, thin material made from animal skin that was used in ancient and medieval times as a durable writing surface) and included beautifully decorated letters, borders and important scenes, making each book a one-of-a-kind piece of ancient art.

These decorations often included radiant colors accented with gold and silver, creating a glowing, “illuminating” effect that gave these special books their name: illuminated manuscripts.

Content Standards:

1.0 ARTISTIC PERCEPTION

Processing, analyzing, and responding to sensory information through the language and skills unique to the visual arts.

2.0 CREATIVE EXPRESSION

Creating in the Visual Arts. Students apply artistic processes and skills, using a variety of media to communicate meaning and intent in original works of art.

Common Core Content Standards:

Anchor Standard #1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standard #2. Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standard #7. Perceive and analyze artistic works.

Anchor Standard #9. Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

Anchor Standard #11. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.

Learning Objectives/Goals/etc.:

Students will explore the history and design elements behind Illuminated letters by participating in group research and small discussion groups.

Students, informed by their research and discussions, will create an illuminated letter.

Students will evaluate their own work and the work of others using rubrics and or other assessments.

Vocabulary:

- Illuminated letter
- Mixed media
- Elements of art
- Principles of art
- Manuscript
- Border

Materials:

- Card stock, 8x10
- Pencils
- Rulers
- Oil pastels or coloring crayons
- Water colors and brushes
- Water cups

Motivation:

Students will be motivated by the beauty and workmanship in illuminated letters and by the sense of what has come before us in the realm of human communication.

Procedures:

Teacher will give an overview of the assignment and examples of work will be shown to students.

Teacher will read a brief article on the power of the written word and human communication.

Students will do pairs research on illuminated letters in lab, on phones, and or in books.

Students will participate in a pair sharing discussion between groups with a written debriefing.

Alternative assignment: pair's poster with gallery walk.

Teacher will demonstrate the technique by doing a small exercise in resist painting and establish criteria by which the work will be assessed.

Students will create a small exercise piece to try out this technique.

Students will do a pairs critique of their exercise based on the criteria established - Verbal feedback with teacher monitoring.

Teacher will reinforce technique by articulating what was learned in pair's critique.

Teacher will demonstrate how to plan and begin a final piece and re-state the criteria for the assignment.

Students will begin final piece.

After 1-2 days of work students will conduct a pairs critique based on the criteria with a written summary in there sketchbook.

After 2-4 days students will complete and turn in a completed illuminated letter.

Students will complete a self-assessment based on the criteria established at the beginning of the assignment.

Teacher will grade student work based on the student's self-assessment and the criteria.

Assessments:

- Pairs critiques and critique notes
- Exercises
- Verbal responses from teacher
- Self-assessments
- Teacher assessments

Extensions:

- collaborate with English teachers to illuminate a letter at the beginning of a written assignment.