

Course syllabus

Art Middle School

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5th Grade Visual Arts Syllabus

Course Overview: This course provides 5th-grade students with an introduction to various visual arts concepts and techniques, exploring different mediums and developing creative expression. Students will also gain an understanding of the history of art and its cultural significance. Each unit will include a focus on both the **Elements and Principles of Art and Design** to guide students in their artistic development.

Unit 1: Sculpture

Objective: Students will explore basic sculpture techniques and create three-dimensional artwork using various materials, understanding form, texture, and proportion.

Elements of Art:

- **Line:** Shape outlines or contours within the sculpture.
- **Shape:** Basic geometric and organic shapes used in sculpture.
- **Form:** The three-dimensional quality of sculpture.
- **Texture:** The surface quality of the sculpture, whether real or implied.
- **Space:** The use of positive and negative space in creating three-dimensional work.

Principles of Design:

- **Balance:** Symmetry and asymmetry in the overall structure of the sculpture.
- **Emphasis:** Focal point within the sculpture that draws attention.
- **Proportion:** The relative size of different parts of the sculpture.
- **Rhythm:** Repeated elements or shapes that guide the viewer's eye through the sculpture.

Project: Create a clay or wire sculpture of an animal or imaginary creature.

National Standards:

- **VA:Cr1.1.5:** Demonstrate persistence in developing skills with various materials, methods, and approaches in sculpture.
 - **VA:Re7.2.5:** Analyze how sculpture communicates ideas about themes or concepts.
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Unit 2: Painting

Objective: Students will experiment with various painting techniques, applying color theory and using brushes to create expressive compositions.

Elements of Art:

- **Color:** Understanding primary, secondary, and complementary colors.
- **Line:** The use of lines to create boundaries or define areas.
- **Shape:** Flat, two-dimensional shapes in the painting.
- **Texture:** Implying texture through the use of different brush techniques and layering.
- **Value:** The lightness or darkness of a color.

Principles of Design:

- **Unity:** Cohesion and harmony within the painting.
- **Contrast:** The difference between colors or shapes to create visual interest.
- **Balance:** Visual equilibrium of the elements, whether symmetrical or asymmetrical.
- **Movement:** The way the viewer's eye is directed through the painting.

Project: Create a landscape or abstract painting using different painting techniques and color theory.

National Standards:

- **VA:Cr2.1.5:** Use a variety of materials and techniques to create a painting.
 - **VA:Re7.1.5:** Identify how the artist's use of color can convey mood or emotion.
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Unit 3: Design

Objective: Students will explore principles of design through geometric and organic patterns, learning to create visual compositions that are balanced and harmonious.

Elements of Art:

- **Line:** Used to create patterns and shapes in design.
- **Shape:** Geometric and organic shapes used to construct a composition.
- **Space:** The relationship between positive and negative space in design.
- **Color:** Use of color to create contrast or harmony in a design.

Principles of Design:

- **Pattern:** Repetition of elements, creating rhythm and unity.
- **Emphasis:** The focal point of the design.
- **Balance:** Achieving a balanced composition (symmetrical or asymmetrical).
- **Contrast:** The juxtaposition of differing elements, such as color, shape, or size.
- **Unity:** Ensuring the design feels like a whole, with all parts working together.

Project: Create a personal logo or pattern-based composition.

National Standards:

- **VA:Cr2.2.5:** Identify and apply design principles such as pattern, contrast, and balance.
 - **VA:Cr3.1.5:** Plan, revise, and complete a design.
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Unit 4: Crafts

Objective: Students will explore various craft techniques such as weaving and paper mâché, focusing on both artistic expression and functional design.

Elements of Art:

- **Line:** Lines used in the weaving process or to define edges of a craft.
- **Shape:** Different shapes formed in the construction of a craft.
- **Texture:** The tactile quality of crafted objects.
- **Space:** The space within and around the design, especially in woven pieces or sculptures.
- **Form:** Creating three-dimensional works with functional elements.

Principles of Design:

- **Balance:** The visual weight of the materials used in a craft project.
- **Pattern:** Repeated elements in a craft design.
- **Unity:** Cohesion between the materials and the overall design.
- **Emphasis:** Creating a focal point within the craft project (e.g., a decorated area or specific shape).

Project: Create a woven bracelet or paper mâché mask.

National Standards:

- **VA:Cr2.3.5:** Create artwork using craft techniques and demonstrate understanding of cultural and historical significance.
 - **VA:Re7.2.5:** Investigate how craft art reflects culture and community.
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Unit 5: Drawing

Objective: Students will refine their drawing skills, working with various drawing materials to explore both realistic representation and abstraction.

Elements of Art:

- **Line:** Use of contour, gesture, and expressive lines in drawing.
- **Shape:** The creation of shapes and forms within the drawing.
- **Value:** Shading and light to create depth and dimension.
- **Texture:** The representation of surface quality through drawing techniques.
- **Space:** The use of foreground, middle ground, and background in a drawing.

Principles of Design:

- **Proportion:** The relative size and scale of objects in a drawing.

- **Emphasis:** Creating focal points within the composition through contrast and scale.
- **Balance:** Achieving visual balance in a drawing by distributing elements evenly.
- **Rhythm:** Repeating lines or forms to create a sense of movement.

Project: Create a still life drawing with shading or an abstract drawing inspired by emotions.

National Standards:

- **VA:Cr1.1.5:** Develop a drawing using a variety of materials and techniques.
 - **VA:Re8.1.5:** Analyze how an artist's use of line and shading conveys mood and depth.
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Unit 6: Art History

Objective: Students will explore key art movements and artists, gaining an understanding of how historical context shapes art and its significance.

Elements of Art:

- **Line:** Different lines used by artists in various historical styles (e.g., Impressionism vs. Cubism).
- **Shape:** Geometric shapes in Renaissance art versus abstract shapes in Modernism.
- **Color:** The evolution of color use, from muted tones to vibrant palettes in art history.
- **Texture:** The depiction of textures in art over time, from smooth to rough or impasto techniques.

Principles of Design:

- **Unity:** How artists achieve harmony within their work.
- **Contrast:** The use of light and dark or different media in various art movements.
- **Emphasis:** The focal points within famous works of art.
- **Balance:** Symmetry in Classical art vs. asymmetry in Modern art movements.

Project: Create artwork inspired by a famous artist or art movement.

National Standards:

- **VA:Re7.1.5:** Analyze and interpret works of art from different historical periods.
 - **VA:Re8.2.5:** Compare how art reflects the values of its time and place.
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Assessment:

- **Formative Assessment:** Ongoing observation and feedback during class activities and projects.
- **Summative Assessment:** Evaluation of completed projects based on creativity, technique, and understanding of art principles.
- **Portfolio:** Collection of works that demonstrate students' growth and understanding over the course of the year.

Materials Needed:

- Drawing materials (pencils, erasers, charcoal, colored pencils)
- Paint (watercolors, tempera, acrylic)
- Sculpture materials (clay, wire, found objects)
- Craft supplies (paper, fabric, beads, glue)
- Reference images of famous artworks

Classroom Expectations:

- Respect for materials and classroom space.
- Active participation and enthusiasm in creative projects.
- Appreciation and constructive feedback for classmates' artwork.

This syllabus ensures that students not only learn specific artistic techniques but also understand the fundamental principles of art and design that shape their creative process. It allows for a well-rounded exploration of visual arts and encourages students to engage critically with art history and their own artistic growth.