Preparing to Paint

Materials: paint • egg cartons • paintbrushes • newspaper • paper towels • water • jars • paper

1. Gather materials. If possible, provide a variety of brushes: small round, medium round, small flat, and large flat.

2. A plastic egg carton cut in two can hold small quantities of paint and be discarded after use.

3. Keep the brushes clean. Remove excess water from the brushes after rinsing.

4. Load brushes correctly, getting paint only on the tip and not on the ferrule.

5. Blot brushes on paper towels. Keep the paint clean (uncontaminated) by washing brushes between colors.

6. Paint should be applied to paper with the bristles, not by pushing the ferrule down on the paper.

7. After use, brushes should be cleaned carefully and stored upright in a jar or can.
A Colorful World
Illustrated Art Lessons

Painting Landscapes

Materials: 12” x 18” manila paper • pencils • paint • egg cartons • paintbrushes • newspaper • paper towels • water • jars

1. After discussing familiar landscapes, select an outdoor scene as a subject for a landscape painting. Sketch the landscape lightly in pencil on manila paper.

2. Introduce painting techniques by using the lesson “Preparing to Paint.”

3. First paint in the sky and the background areas using large brushes. While painting, think of shapes, colors, and textures in the landscapes.

4. Paint in the details with smaller brushes until the painting is complete.

5. Display the finished landscapes with the posters of The Bonaventure Pine and The Turning Road, L’Estaque. Discuss the choices of colors. Which were used more often, warm colors or cool colors?

Painting Landscapes
Peaceable Kingdom
Illustrated Art Lessons

Making a Drawing

Materials: 12” x 18” manila paper • crayons • several 1” x 18” strips of tagboard

1. Distribute the manila paper and crayons.

2. Demonstrate how to use the narrow strip of tagboard as a straight edge to mark a frame around the manila paper.

3. Think about the animals and settings previously discussed (see the “Peaceable Kingdom” Lesson Chart). Create crayon drawings of a peaceful local scene. Use the entire space within the borders.

4. Print the four-line poems written in the language arts lesson (see the “Peaceable Kingdom” Lesson Chart) around the perimeter of the drawings, as in Peaceable Kingdom.
Peaceable Kingdom
Illustrated Art Lessons

Learning about Animals: Creating Animal Masks

Materials: 9" x 12" construction paper • scissors • stapler • scraps of colored paper • glue • yarn • string

1. Fold the paper vertically and cut an oval shape for a mask.

2. Fold the paper horizontally and cut shapes for eyes.

3. Cut 1" slots at the top and bottom of the paper. Overlap the slots and staple them in place to create the convex shape of the mask.
4. Using scraps of colored paper, cut shapes for the nose, mouth, ears, etc. Glue these shapes to the mask.

5. Add yarn, paper, or other scraps to suggest animal characteristics.

6. Punch holes and attach string to secure the mask to the head.
Signs and Symbols
Illustrated Art Lessons

Creating a Wreath

Materials: yellow or gold construction paper • 1" x 18" strips of tagboard • stapler • scissors • pencils

1. Gather leaves from the school grounds, looking for varied shapes. Examine the leaves closely, studying their shapes, textures, and patterns.

2. Draw the leaves on yellow or gold construction paper, and cut them out.

3. Fit strips of tagboard to the students’ heads, and mark the correct length.

4. Staple the paper leaves to the strips of tagboard and then staple the strips to form the wreaths.
Signs and Symbols
Illustrated Art Lessons

Making a Quilt

Materials: 9” x 12” white paper • construction paper in assorted colors • scissors • glue • bulletin-board paper

1. Select a symbol for a quilt block. Sketch the symbol, then sketch the design again, using simple shapes that fill a sheet of 9” x 12” paper.

2. Cut out each shape in the symbol.

3. Place the shapes on pieces of colored construction paper. Trace around the shapes.

4. Cut out the shapes from the colored construction paper.

5. Assemble the colored shapes on a piece of 9” x 12” paper. Glue the shapes to create the symbol.

6. Collect the paper quilt blocks from the entire class. As a class, try different arrangements of the quilt blocks to achieve a unified and balanced design.

7. Select an arrangement, then glue the blocks to a large sheet of bulletin-board paper and hang for display.
Signs and Symbols
Illustrated Art Lessons

Printing Leaves

Materials: green leaves • water-soluble printing ink • brayer • inking plate • newspaper • blank newsprint

1. Separate the leaves that students gathered for the art lesson into groups of simple and compound leaves.

2. Squeeze a small amount of printing ink on the inking plate. Roll the brayer back and forth through the ink until the brayer is evenly coated.

3. Place one leaf, veined-side up, on a clean newspaper. Roll the ink-coated brayer back and forth until the leaf is evenly coated.

4. Place the coated leaf, inked-side up, on a clean newspaper.

5. Cover with a sheet of blank newsprint and rub the entire surface of the paper firmly to ensure that the ink is worked into the surface of the paper. Remove the top paper from the leaf. This process is called “pulling a print.”
6. Pull a print of a simple leaf and a compound leaf. Label and sign each print.

7. After learning the printing process and completing the required samples, use the leaves to make decorative prints by trying different arrangements and printing from both sides of the leaves.
Printing Leaves

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Shaping Up
Illustrated Art Lessons

Discovering Shapes: Cut-Paper Mural

Materials: blue or green bulletin-board paper • colored construction paper • scissors • glue • markers or crayons

1. Roll out sheets of blue or green bulletin-board paper and cut to the size desired for the finished mural.

2. Cut out a large assortment of geometric shapes from pieces of colored construction paper.

3. Think about the geometric shapes observed during the discovery walk. Review the ways that Fernand Léger, David Smith, and the Mogollon artist used geometric shapes to depict people and animals. Arrange the shapes on the background paper to create a mural of the discovery walk. Glue the shapes to the background. Use markers or crayons to add details.
Making a Pinch Pot

Materials: clay • cutting wire • pencils • newspaper • kiln • paint • acrylic paint

1. Cover tables or desks with newspaper. Using the cutting wire, cut the clay into pieces about the size of an orange and give one piece to each student. Roll each piece of clay into a ball.

2. Demonstrate pressing the thumb into the center of the clay ball to open it, then slowly turning the clay and gently pressing out the walls.

3. Continue to turn slowly and press gently. Avoid pressing too hard. The walls should not become too thin. Using only the hands, press, pinch, and smooth the clay into the desired shape.

4. When the clay is leather hard (firm but still moist; see the lesson “Physical Changes in Clay”), incise geometric designs using the point of a sharp pencil.

5. Allow the clay to dry to the bone-dry stage (room temperature). At this stage, clay is brittle and must be handled gently.

6. Fire the clay in a kiln, following procedures in the kiln instruction manual. Bisqueware (fired pieces) can be painted. If a kiln is not available, allow the clay to dry completely, then coat it with acrylic paint for strength. Additional paint can be applied over the dried acrylic surface.
Physical Changes in Clay

**Materials:** pinch pots created in preceding art lesson (Making a Pinch Pot)

**Soft Clay**  Clay, when purchased, should be moist and malleable.

**Leather-Hard Clay**  After clay sits out for a while, it becomes stiff and unworkable. This stage is called leather hard because the clay feels cold and moist to the touch, like cold leather. Clay can still be carved but can no longer be reshaped.

**Greenware**  Exposure to air causes clay to dry and shrink. At this stage the clay is called bone dry. The pieces will feel room temperature.

**Kiln**  An oven for firing clay pieces is called a kiln. In most schools, the kiln is electric. Refer to the kiln instruction manual for procedures for stacking the kiln and firing.

**Bisqueware**  Clay pieces that have been fired in the kiln are called bisqueware.

**Glazed Ware**  Bisqueware can be coated with prepared glazes and refired, giving pieces a hard surface that is either matte or gloss, depending on the type of glaze.
Shaping Up
Illustrated Art Lessons

Working with Shapes: Slip-and-Slot Sculptures

Materials: heavy paper • scissors • glue

Note: Demonstrate this technique before students begin their sculptures.

1. Cut two rectangles from heavy paper. Cut a slot in the bottom of one and a matching slot in the top of the other. Slide the two together. A bead of glue added at the seam secures the join where the two pieces meet.

2. Follow the same technique for circles, ovals, and triangles.

3. By combining these different shapes, students can create complex and varied sculptures.