

Common Core Lesson: Exploring Medium and Material in Art

Grade Level: 4th - 8th grade

Subject: Visual Arts

Objective: Students will be able to differentiate between the terms "medium" and "material" in art, understand their significance in the creative process, identify examples of different mediums and materials, and create artwork using various mediums and materials.

Common Core Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information clearly.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Materials:

Visual examples of artworks in different mediums (painting, sculpture, photography, etc.)

Samples of art materials (paint, clay, paper, etc.)

Chart paper or whiteboard

Drawing paper

Art materials (paint, clay, markers, etc.)

Procedure:

Introduction (10 minutes)

This work is created by Cultivate, for ArtPrize Education, in 2023. This work is made possible by Kendall College of Art and Design, Michigan Art and Culture Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts

Begin by asking students if they are familiar with the terms "medium" and "material" in relation to art.

Explain that in art, "medium" refers to the type of art form or creative expression, while "material" refers to the specific physical substances artists use to create their work.

Show visual examples of artworks in different mediums and ask students to share their observations and initial thoughts.

Reading and Discussion (15 minutes)

Provide a brief reading passage or present key information about medium and material in art.

Have students read the passage individually or in pairs and highlight important details about the definitions and distinctions between medium and material.

Facilitate a class discussion, asking students to share what they have learned and clarify any misconceptions.

Medium Exploration (20 minutes)

Create a chart on the board or chart paper with different art mediums, such as painting, sculpture, photography, etc.

Explain each medium and provide visual examples to illustrate how artists express themselves creatively in each medium.

Engage students in a collaborative discussion, asking them to identify examples of artworks in each medium and discuss their characteristics.

Material Exploration (20 minutes)

Display samples of art materials, such as paint, clay, paper, etc.

Explain each material and its role in the creative process.

Allow students to explore and handle the art materials, discussing their properties, textures, and possible uses.

Encourage students to brainstorm and share different ways each material can be used in various mediums.

Creating Artwork (30 minutes)

Distribute drawing paper and art materials to students.

Instruct students to choose a specific medium and select appropriate materials to create their artwork.

Encourage students to consider the characteristics of their chosen medium and materials and how they can best express their ideas and creativity.

Sharing and Reflection (15 minutes)

Invite students to share their artwork with the class, explaining their chosen medium, materials, and the creative choices they made.

Facilitate a supportive discussion where students can appreciate and discuss the diverse range of mediums and materials used by their peers.

Culminating Discussion (10 minutes)

Wrap up the lesson by reviewing the definitions and distinctions between medium and material in art.

Encourage students to reflect on how the choice of medium and materials can impact the meaning and visual effect of an artwork.

Discuss the importance of experimentation and artistic exploration when selecting mediums and materials.

Assessment:

Informally assess students' understanding of medium and material through their active participation in class discussions and their ability to differentiate between the two terms. Review students' artwork to assess their application of different mediums and materials, considering how effectively they express their ideas and creativity.

Optional: Assign a written reflection where students explain their understanding of medium and material and reflect on the significance of their choices in creating their artwork. Assess their ability to convey ideas and concepts clearly.

Resources:

Book - "Art Parts: A Child's Introduction to the Elements of Art" by Kim Bogren Owen - "Art Parts" is an interactive picture book that introduces young readers to the elements of art, including the concepts of medium and material. It offers a playful exploration of various art materials and their unique characteristics. The book encourages children to experiment with different mediums and materials through hands-on activities and creative prompts.

Book - "Mix It Up!" by Hervé Tullet - This interactive picture book invites readers to explore the concept of mixing colors, which is a fundamental aspect of art. It encourages experimentation with colors as a medium and demonstrates how different materials can be used to create unique effects.

Book: "Beautiful Oops!" by Barney Saltzberg - This creative picture book teaches students about turning mistakes into opportunities in art. It emphasizes the idea that accidents can lead to new and exciting artistic discoveries. The book explores the concept of material and medium through unexpected artistic transformations.