

“Symmetry in Aliens”

Fall, 2009



Lesson Plan Title: “Symmetry in Aliens”

Grade Level: 3rd and 4th

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Objectives: Students will learn...

1. (Domain 1: Artistic perception) the basic concepts of the Elements of Art including line, shape and color as well as the Principles of Design such as symmetry and asymmetry.

2. (Domain 2: Creative Expression) how to cut a symmetrical shape by folding construction paper in half in order to make an alien.

3. (Domain 3: Historical and Cultural Context of the Visual Arts) about our solar system and scientists’ exploration of life on other planets.

4. (Domain 4: Aesthetic Valuing) How to give constructive criticism to their peers based on the idea of symmetry and emphasis of color.

5. (Domain 5: Connections, Relationships, and Application) how to connect this lesson to a unit on Outer Space and the planets within our Solar System.

Students Materials:

1. Assorted colors of construction paper
2. Decorative Materials (foil, glitter, etc)
3. Pencil and eraser
4. Colored pencils
5. Crayons
6. Scissors
7. Markers
8. Glue

Teacher Materials:

1. PowerPoint on Outer Space
2. Examples

Vocabulary:

1. Symmetry
2. Asymmetry

Procedures:

1. Introduce project by showing PowerPoint on Outer Space and then discussing it. Also show examples of the project to get the students thinking about what they want to do.
2. Have students pick out a colored piece of construction paper to use as the color of their alien.
3. Fold construction paper in half hamburger style.
4. Draw half of the alien on the folded paper with however many arms, legs and antennae you wish.
5. Cut out your alien and you will see that you have a perfectly symmetrical alien.
6. Use decorative material like crayons, markers, colored pencils, foil and glitter to add detail to your alien.
7. Complete alien, write a description of it and hang on the wall.
8. Conclusion: Critique aliens as a class based on the pieces' symmetry and color emphasis.

Visual Procedures:

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Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

Step 4

Assessments, Suggestions and/or Comments:

- Is the alien symmetrical?
- Is there color emphasis within the alien?
- This is a fun project! My second graders at Chico Country Day loved this and were actually the inspiration for this lesson plan.