

Symmetry Bugs

Lead Teacher: Cassidy Sullivan

Course: Art

Grade Level: Grade 1

Number of Students: around 20-25 per class (10 classes)

LESSON OVERVIEW (RATIONALE)

For this one-day lesson, students create symmetrical insects of their own imagination. The lesson starts by a brief introduction and conversation about the importance of bugs in the environment. The new art term “symmetry” is introduced, and then students begin following along to a demo that explains how to create their own symmetrical insects. Students follow along step by step, but are given much creative freedom in how they customize their bugs. They then fill their insects in with construction paper crayons, practicing symmetry by drawing and coloring the same on both sides.

This lesson is important because it teaches students about the most populous animal on Earth, and leads them to a higher appreciation for insects. It allows them to contemplate the various body parts and their uses to create their own imaginative bug. They also learn a new vocabulary word that holds relevancy in both art and math, and get to experiment with a new artistic medium.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- What is symmetry?
- How can rubbing techniques be used to create a symmetrical work of art?
- Why are bugs important to the environment?

LEARNER OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES

- Student creates a bug artwork that utilizes symmetry
- Student practices with the new medium of oil pastels
- Student learns about the importance of bugs in our environment

NATIONAL ART STANDARDS

- VA:CR2.1.1A: Explore uses of materials and tools to creates works of art or design
- VA:CR1.2.1a: Use observation and investigation in preparation for making a work of art

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STANDARDS

- 9.1.V1.A: Know and use basic elements of visual arts
- 9.1.V1.B: Create works of art and identity art materials, techniques, and processes
- 9.1.V1.E: Use imagination and creativity to express self through visual arts

Teacher Examples:

PREREQUISITES:

- Students have a basic understanding of drawing shapes
- Students have been introduced to reflections
- Students have general knowledge of different types of bugs

INTERDISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS:

- Science: Students are introduced to the importance that insects play into the world around them
- Math: Students learn a term often used in geometry, symmetry, and apply it to their art making
- Reading: Students learn new art vocabulary words: symmetry and oil pastels
- Writing: Students practice writing their signature on their work of art

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR LESSON

- Black paper
- White chalk
- Construction paper crayons

TEACHER ACTIONS / EXPECTED LEARNER ACTIONS

1 Day Lesson	
Time	Actions
5 min	<p>Introduction</p> <p>What is symmetry? Why are bugs important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talk about their importance to our ecosystems
10 min	<p>Step by step demo: students follow along</p> <p>Folding black paper in half, instructing which side to draw on</p> <p>Together, go through creating bug parts one step at a time (draw a head, thorax, abdomen, legs, eyes, etc.) using the white chalk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students have creative freedom on what shapes and designs they want to use to customize their creations <p>While demoing, talk about <i>why</i> students are making the choices they are</p> <p>Rubbing of paper to transfer the chalk</p>
10 min	<p>Introduce construction paper crayons and demo using them to fill in their bugs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What they draw on one side, they draw on the other <p>Allow student work time to fill in their creations with any colors of their choice</p>
5 min	<p>Closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What kind of bug did you create? Why is your bug important?