
VISUAL ARTS LESSON PLAN

Grade Level: 8

Duration: Four 60-minute class periods

Author: Maura Glynn, adapted from Jennifer Mattei

Date: 2/26/2012

Unit: The Middle Ages and The Renaissance

Lesson: Illuminated Manuscript Page

Massachusetts Visual Arts Curriculum Framework Learning Standards

2.11 For space and composition, create unified 2D and 3D compositions that demonstrate an understanding of balance, repetition, rhythm, scale, proportion, unity, harmony, and emphasis.

3.6 Create artwork that employs the use of free form symbolic imagery that demonstrates personal invention, and/or conveys ideas and emotions.

Connections Strand 10.2 Integrate knowledge of visual arts and apply the arts to learning about other disciplines (World History- The Middle Ages and The Renaissance in particular)

Specific Lesson Objectives:

The students will...

- Discover the history of illuminated manuscripts
 - Compare & contrast the characteristics of “handmade” versus “mass produced” during a class discussion
 - Experiment with mixed media by using a light wash of brown watercolor paint or tea to stain the page
 - Construct a unified composition by using template measurements and incorporating an illustration and text
-

Assessment of Learning:

- Rubric
 - Daily Warm-ups
 - Daily closings
-

Essential Questions:

- Where do you see decorated letters?
 - How has the printing industry changed the way we make/read books?
 - How are mass-produced items different from handmade items? (Pros and cons for each)
 - Why is it important for text to look visually appealing? (Consider graphic design- advertisements, posters, album covers, etc.)
-

Guiding Questions:

- What is an illuminator?
- What is a scribe?
- What is a miniature?
- Who was the inventor of the printing press?

Activity:

Each student will create their own illuminated manuscript page, which includes a border, decorated letter, an inspirational quote, and an illustration about the quote.

Motivation:

- Daily warm-ups
- Essential questions
- Guiding questions
- Demonstration
- Example packets of letters, templates, inspirational quotes, and manuscripts
- Daily closings

Materials:

- Pencils
- Rulers
- Example packets (letters, manuscript examples, history, inspirational quotes)
- 12X18 white paper
- Template examples
- Water color paint (or tea)
- Water cups
- Paint brushes
- Sketch paper
- Crayons
- Markers
- Colored pencils
- Sample model

Procedure:*Day 1:*

Students enter classroom, obtain their folders, and take their seats

Students complete warm-up which contains an essential question, or a review/
guiding question about the Renaissance/Middle ages

While students work on warm-up, teacher hands out history of illuminated
manuscripts packets

Teacher goes over warm-up briefly and then reads history packet aloud to the class

Teacher asks a few questions to review

Teacher briefly presents lesson and shows examples

Rulers, template examples and 12X18 sheets of white paper are distributed to each
student

Teacher demonstrates how to measure out and draw the templates line by line while students do so simultaneously

When template is complete, teacher asks all students to gather around a table near the board to demonstrate how to do a light wash of brown watercolor paint or tea

Teacher asks one person from each group to obtain 2 watercolor palettes, paintbrushes for each person, and 1 water jar for their group

Students begin their light wash and when complete, place work in drying rack or hang in back

If time allows, teacher distributes letter and letter packets and encourages students to begin practicing on scrap paper

Then teacher distributes homework sheet

Homework: Students must bring in or have in mind an inspirational quote (or they must choose from the teacher's personal selection for next class)

Day 2:

Teacher walks around to check homework from previous class

Students work for the remainder of the period

Letter should be drawn by the end of class

Day 3:

Students should work for the entire period

Day 4:

Last day for students to finish their final piece- students should be working all period

References and specific resources:

The leaves of gold learning center. (2012, february 26). Retrieved from <http://www.leavesofgold.org/learn/index.html>

Solo, Dan X. (1994). Ready-to-use Ornamental Initials: 840 Different Copyright-Free Designs Printed One Side. New York: Dover Publications Inc.

Appendices:

Rubric/ Check list

Homework sheet

History of Illuminated manuscripts packet

Letter examples packet

Manuscript examples packet

Inspirational quotes examples packet
