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**VISUAL ARTS LESSON PLAN**

**Grade Level:** 8

**Duration:** Four to six 60-minute class periods

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**Unit:** Ancient Aztecs

**Lesson:** Aztec Sun Stone Design

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**Massachusetts Visual Arts Curriculum Framework Learning Standards**

1.13 Make reasonable choices of 2D and 3D media, materials, tools, and techniques to achieve desired effects in specific projects

2.10 For shape, form, and pattern, use and be able to identify an expanding and increasingly sophisticated array of shapes and forms, such as organic, geometric, positive and negative, or varieties of symmetry

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 Aztecs in particular)

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**Specific Lesson Objectives:**

*The students will...*

- Discover the history of the Ancient Aztecs and the Aztec Sun stone
  - Collaborate with a partner to create a unified piece of art
  - Classify and utilize organic and geometric lines & shapes
  - Identify and utilize primary, secondary, and complementary colors
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**Assessment of Learning:**

- Rubric
  - Daily Warm-ups
  - Daily closings
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**Essential Questions:**

What do you think your sun design could symbolically represent?

Why do you think the Aztec sun stone has become an important symbol in Mexican culture?

What kinds of symbols and patterns could you use in your Aztec sun?

**Guiding Questions:**

What are geometric lines?

What are organic lines?

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Where did the original Aztec sunstone originate?

What the main elements and principles are used in this project? Name at least 3.

What are the primary colors?

What are the secondary colors?

What are the complementary colors?

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**Activity:**

Each student will create their own half-Aztec sun design using fluorescent tempera paint and a black permanent marker.

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**Motivation:**

- Daily warm-ups
  - Essential questions
  - Guiding questions
  - Demonstration
  - Example packets
  - Daily closings
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**Materials:**

- Pencils
  - Erasers
  - Rulers
  - Half-circle stencil
  - History handout
  - Manila paper
  - Half circle template
  - Fluorescent tempera paint
  - Palates
  - Water cups
  - Paint brushes
  - Permanent markers
  - Sample model
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**Procedure:**

*Day 1:*

Students enter class, obtain half sheets of composition paper, and sit down to complete warm up question

Teacher passes out folders while students work on warm up question

Teacher asks for the undivided attention of the class for a demonstration about the next project

Teacher holds up a sample and asks students what they see or think the next project will be

Teacher briefly discusses history of the Aztec sun stone and modern inspiration

Teacher shows students how to trace the half-circle stencil on the edge of the paper

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and tells them they should work with a partner to match up features  
Students receive image reference packets and may begin working

Closing questions

*Day 2:*

After students pass in warm-up, teacher goes over the day's objectives- to finish the sketch

Students continue to sketch out their Aztec sun designs, some may begin painting

*Day 3:*

After students pass in warm-up, teacher goes over the day's objectives- to start applying some paint

Students continue to work on their Aztec Sun designs

Closing questions

*Day 4:*

After students pass in warm-up, teacher goes over the day's objectives-to continue applying paint

Students continue to work on their Aztec Sun designs, some may finish

Closing questions

*Day 5:*

After students pass in warm-up, teacher goes over the day's objectives-to finish painting sun design

Students continue to work on their Aztec Sun designs

*Day 6:*

After students pass in warm-up, teacher goes over the day's objectives-to define the design with a black permanent marker

Students finish up Aztec Sun designs

Last day to finish project

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**References and specific resources:**

Cótrill, J. (2012, march 14). *Aztec calendar stone*. Retrieved from <http://www.aztec-history.com/aztec-calendar-stone.html>

Crystal, E. (2012, march 14). *Aztec Calendar Sun Stone*. Retrieved from <http://www.crystalinks.com/aztecalendar.html>

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**Appendices:**

Rubric/ Check list

History of Aztecs packet

Image reference packet

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