



AMUM

Lesson Plan Template

Teacher	
Grade/Subject	General Art
Lesson Title	Paper Weaving

Lesson Overview

Students will create a woven paper piece inspired by patterns and color symbolism of traditional African textiles, identify and discuss Kente cloth and its cultural significance, and develop fine motor skills through weaving techniques.

Suggested Standards

- VA.Cr1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work
- VA.Cr.2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work
- VA.P3: Convey and express meaning through the presentation of artistic work
- VA.R1: Perceive and analyze artistic work

Objectives

- Learn about the cultural significance of Kente cloth in African traditions.
- Identify patterns and color symbolism in traditional African textiles.
- Create a woven paper piece inspired by the use of visual and symbolic qualities of Kente cloth.
- Develop fine motor skills and understanding of weaving techniques.

Assessment

- Pre-Instruction guided discussion questions
- Strategic questioning as a group during instruction
- Present and reflect on choices made during the activity (group talk, exit ticket, etc.)

Materials

- Paper for base: Construction paper or Cardstock
- Paper for weaving: Construction paper or scraps (anything flexible)
- Scissors
- Glue sticks

- Optional mark making tools: markers, paint, crayons, etc.

Introduction

- Ask students some comprehension questions to gauge the amount of prior knowledge of weaving and textiles.
- Show a clip of an artist creating Kente cloth on a loom. Have students describe the process they are seeing and what they think the artist is making.

Instruction


- Begin with a short discussion or slideshow about Kente cloth:
 - Where it's from (Ghana and the Ashanti people)
 - How it's traditionally made (handwoven on looms)
 - Who was it created for (Royalty and important figures)
 - Where it got its name ("Kenten" which means "basket")
 - Each Kente pattern is unique and has its own name
 - Color and pattern symbolism
- Ask students:
 - "Have you ever seen patterns like this before?"
 - "Why do you think people wear or display patterned cloth?"

Activity

- Show an example of the finished piece.
- Remind students of the significance of color and pattern, and how every pattern of Kente cloth is unique.
- Explain their objective:
 - Create a woven paper piece using color symbolism and patterns inspired by you.
- Walk students through the project:
 - Choose a base paper and fold it in half
 - Cut slits over the fold, stopping 1 inch from the edge
 - Cut strips of paper on the short edge to weave with
 - Demonstrate how to weave strips over and under, alternating the pattern.
 - Once loom is full, glue edges to the base paper
- Optional Extensions:
 - Have students create patterns on the base paper and the weaving strips using paint, markers, crayons, etc.
 - Have students try combining fabric and paper strips into the paper loom.

Reflection

- Students present their final piece and explain their color and pattern choices.
 - "Why did you choose that color? What does it mean to you?"
 - "How does pattern play into your pieces?"

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- As a class, create a gallery wall to display student works.
 - Have students create a wall label to display with their piece.

Additional Resources

- <https://multicultural.web.baylor.edu/kentehistory> Brief history of Kente cloth