

Picture Tells a Thousand Words

Overview: After exploring examples of excellent graphic design, students create a one word sign using their knowledge of symbols and math.

Theme: Signs
Concept: Symbols

Grade: 5th
Time: (3) 45 min lessons

Objective: Students will be introduced to the language and application of the elements and principles of visual art.

Student will create an original graphic design for a one -word sign using the above.

Student will learn how design affects perception.

Student will explore the relationship between math and visual art.

Essential Questions:

What relationships do you see between art and math?

How does the visual appearance, the “look”, of a sign influence our understanding of it?

What roles do symbols play in any culture?



Lesson Activities:

1. Teacher and student view examples of graphic design. They discuss their observations about the use of the elements of art and the principles of design in the works.

2. Students work in teams to explore the process of developing a graphic design

using only basic shapes (brainstorm, thumbnail sketches, etc).

3. Each team votes on their favorite drawing.

4. Students work collaboratively to translate drawing into a large sign.

Extension of Lesson:

Write a paragraph describing what you liked best and least about this lesson. Use at least 3 of the vocabulary words.

Teach this lesson to a friend or family member.

Materials Needed:

The Block: collages by Romare Bearden, poems by Langston Hughes
examples of excellent graphic design from artists and students (attached)

Markers, paper, poster board, assorted contac paper, grid paper

Vocabulary: graphic design, symbol, grid, vertical, horizontal, parallel, perpendicular, diagonal, relative, rhythm, repetition,

personification, element, principle, symmetry, asymmetry, perception, geometric shape, pattern, symbol, observe, proportion, compare, contrast

Benchmarks

Art

Student will:

Describe and apply knowledge of the principles of design: rhythm, balance, contrast, variety, repetition, etc. in their own artwork and the artwork of others.

Describe and use the elements of art: line, color, shape, texture, space, etc.

Discuss observations of visual and expressive features in the environment.

Make original art using a variety of materials, skills and sources for ideas.

Show respect for their work and others.

Math

Student will:

Identify, compare, classify and describe geometric figures.

Use motion geometry (e.g. turns, flips, slides) to investigate concepts of symmetry, similarity and congruence.

Whole child:

Thinking/Cognition: Students compare and contrast shapes, colors and angles

Feelings/Emotions: Joy in discovery, surprise

Doing/Physical: Drawing, sketching

Assessment:

Score 1 to 5

----- Student works collaboratively with team members.

----- Student participates in discussion during viewing of examples.

----- Student demonstrates understanding of elements and principles of art in the creation of their own work.



