

UArts Lesson Plan Format

Name: Rissa Radcliff

Theme: Group Project

Title: Charcoal Collaborations

Grade level: High School

Goal/Activity: Students will draw using charcoal to replicate a small section of a larger image. When placed together in the correct sequence, the student's drawings will recreate the original image.

Developmental Rationale/Prior Learning: Students have spent quite a bit of time working on their observational drawing skills, but have not yet worked with charcoal. This lesson introduces the new media while continually developing their habits in observation, vision, and perseverance. Students also are working on their group work skills and communication with this project. While most of the work will be done individually, they may need to rely on one another to ensure their image is going to turn out correctly.

History/background:

Standards:

VA:Cr3.1 Apply relevant criteria from traditional and contemporary cultural contexts to examine, reflect on, and plan revisions for works of art and design in progress. // Engage in constructive critique with peers, then reflect on, re-engage, revise, and refine works of art and design in response to personal artistic vision.

VA:Pr5.1 Analyze and evaluate the reasons and ways an exhibition is presented. // Evaluate, select, and apply methods or processes appropriate to display artwork in a specific place.

VA:Re8.1 Interpret an artwork or collection of works, supported by relevant and sufficient evidence found in the work and its various contexts. // Identify types of contextual information useful in the process of constructing interpretations of an artwork or collection of works.

VA:Re9.1 Establish relevant criteria in order to evaluate a work of art or collection of works. // Determine the relevance of criteria used by others to evaluate a work of art or collection of works.

Objectives:

1. **Knowledge:** *Students will be able to identify the different charcoal tools used in this project in order to use them appropriately.*
2. **Skill:** *Students will be able to add and subtract charcoal from their papers in order to achieve desired values.*
3. **Attitude:** *Students will be able to work collaboratively in order to create a recognizable image.*

Teacher preparation: Preslice the papers, prepare materials bins, make slideshow presentations, choose and print out images, assign students to image

Supplies:

8.5 x 11 toned paper, vine charcoal (various thicknesses), compressed charcoal, white conte crayon, charcoal pencils, kneaded erasers, pink erasers, paper towels, spray fixative

Visual Aids and reference to art history:



Figure 1) *Charcoal Cheetah*, Various Artists Age 8-10, 2019

Figure 2) *Charcoal Ant*, Various Artists Age 8-10, 2019

Resources: Projector, computer, slide show

Prior Knowledge: Previous to this lesson, students have worked on drawing still lives with graphite. Students will be using similar principles and techniques as to that assignment, but implementing them with new media.

Teaching

Motivation/Spark:

Hello everyone. If y'all can take a look up front. I'm going to introduce the new project. **(Begin Powerpoint)** So, show of hands, who has worked with charcoal before? (What can you say about it?)

Okay, so the next project we are going to do is a collaborative charcoal drawing. So here is how that is going to work. **(slide)**

I've taken some time to choose several images and assign each one you to an image, and a section within that image. So if these are the entire images, you're going to be asked to just draw a small section, like so. **(slide)**

Everyone will receive a piece of toned drawing paper and a reference image (hold up items) that are completely yours to work off of and from. Once you start, you're going to want to make a grid. **(slide)** First, using a pencil or marker and your reference image, you're going to draw a 4x4 grid on top of the print out. Then, lightly, using your vine charcoal, you're going to draw that same grid onto your drawing paper. This is what is going to help us get the proportions correct so that all of your individual sections line up. **(slide)**

So if we all do this correctly, when we put them together, we will get one large, collaborative image made of nine student's individual pieces. And here are some works from some of my students a few years ago. **(scroll through slides)**

So next, we are just going to do some practice drawings with the charcoal, but first, does anyone have any questions as to what this assignment consists of?

Teaching

Demonstration and Directions:

Alrightly, so next we are going to draw from this still life image to get to understand how to work with charcoal. So in front of us we have a couple different materials. **(hold up materials as you explain them)** So this is our vine charcoal. It's typically very light weight and creates light marks when not too much pressure is applied. This is what you're going to want to do most of your drawings with. We also have thicker vine charcoals if you want to lay a color down over a larger area. Next we have these compressed charcoals which create a much darker mark. These often blend out darker and are much harder to erase, so they're used once you have your composition set and you know you need to make an area darker and not need to erase. We also have kneaded erasers. This is how you are going to build your highlights. To get lighter values in your art, you're going to erase spots you've already put down charcoal. If you just leave the paper white and untouched, a lot of times the work looks unfinished and the values don't match. So we want to be sure to go in with a light layer of charcoal first, and then pick it up with our erasers. And lastly, we have some white charcoal. This is to be used super sparingly after basically finishing your drawing. The paper we are working on is not white, so we don't want to overuse the white. Only use the white charcoal for small details that would legitimately appear white in real life, like a glint in someone's eye, or a shine on the nose. This is not to color in large areas white. That is what the eraser is for. **(slide)**

And here are some visuals on how the vine charcoal can blend out super lightly vs the compressed charcoal. Does anyone need me to clarify anything on the materials we are using?

Okay, so then you are good to familiarize yourselves with the media and practice drawing this still life as accurately as you can.

Teaching

Closure:

After one week of working on this assignment, students will meet up with their groups to critique and discuss the progress made on this assignment. Students should offer feedback to one another as well as ask questions as to how they can improve their piece of the image.

Vocabulary:

Vine Charcoal: A drawing tool made from burnt wood that creates light, dusty marks. Vine charcoal blends easily and can be built up to create darker shades.

Compressed Charcoal: A heavier, waxier charcoal used for achieving very dark values.

Assessment:

Formative: Teachers will check in with students as they move forward to ensure they are progressing as planned. Students will also check in with themselves to determine how they are doing.

Summative: Work will be graded on a rubric based on individual contribution

Accommodations/Modifications/Adaptations: Students may wear gloves or use charcoal pencils. Students may be given extra time should their circumstances allow it.

Extensions: Early finishers can work on their next sketchbook assignment.

Correlated Activity: Students will be working on painting round canvases with a series of paint droplets.

Time Budget:

Day 1: Introduction Slideshow (5 Minutes)

Students work with charcoal (35 Minutes)

Students clean up (5 Minutes)

Day 2: Teacher passes out each student's image (3 Minutes)

Students work on final image (37 Minutes)

Clean up (5 Minutes)

Day 3-6: Students Work (40 Minutes)

Clean up (5 Minutes)

Day 7: Students meet in teams to discuss progress (20 Minutes)

Students work on final image (20 Minutes)

Clean up (5 Minutes)

Day 8: Students Work (40 Minutes)

Clean up (5 Minutes)

Day 9: Students Finish Work (40 Minutes)

Clean up (5 Minutes)