

Lesson Title: Introduction to Simple Foam Sculptures

Subject: Art

Grade Level: Elementary + Middle School

Time Allotment: 45 minutes

Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify at least two basic three-dimensional forms.
- Demonstrate basic techniques for manipulating and joining foam.
- Create a simple three-dimensional foam sculpture.

Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Arts Learning Standards (2017):

This lesson aligns with the following standards from the Visual Arts strand:

- VA.Cr.1.6-8.a: Generate ideas and build knowledge for creating art by exploring a range of subject matter, potential ideas, and artistic approaches.
- VA.Cr.2.6-8.a: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work by selecting and experimenting with media and tools to explore personal ideas, experiences, and observations.
- VA.Cr.3.6-8.a: Develop and complete artistic ideas and work by constructing and assembling visual artworks.

Materials:

- Pre-cut foam shapes (e.g., cubes, rectangles, cylinders – varying sizes, but not too large)
- Craft foam sheets (various colors, pre-cut into smaller manageable pieces if needed)
- Low-temperature hot glue guns and glue sticks (with strict safety guidelines and adult supervision)
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Markers (optional, for very simple decoration)
- Safety mats or protected surfaces

Procedure:

1. (10 minutes) Introduction and Demonstration:

- A sculpture is a piece of art that's made by shaping or carving something or putting things together. Jon Hamm and Elmo were going to tell you about the word sculpture, but Elmo is coincidentally busy making a sculpture so John Hamm will do most of the explaining, along with Murray, and Bert and Ernie, and some kids on the street. Check out this video: https://youtu.be/cTslqS_H7Jg?si=xnzHjC9tctySd5B
- Briefly discuss basic three-dimensional forms (show examples). (Addresses VA.Cr.1.6-8.a - exploring subject matter)
- Demonstrate simple techniques for joining foam pieces using low-temperature hot glue (emphasize safety). (Addresses VA.Cr.2.6-8.a - experimenting with media and tools)
- Show examples of very simple foam sculptures made by combining pre-cut shapes or adding small craft foam details. (Addresses VA.Cr.1.6-8.a - exploring artistic approaches)

2. (30 minutes) Creating Simple Foam Sculptures:

- Students select pre-cut foam shapes and/or craft foam sheets.
- Encourage them to create a simple sculpture by combining these elements using glue or by cutting basic shapes from the craft foam to add to the pre-cut forms. (Addresses VA.Cr.2.6-8.a - selecting and experimenting with media and tools)
- Circulate and provide individual assistance, focusing on safe use of materials. (Addresses VA.Cr.3.6-8.a - constructing and assembling visual artworks)

3. (5 minutes) Quick Sharing and Clean-up:

- Students briefly show their completed sculptures to a partner or the class.
- Quickly clean up all materials and dispose of scraps appropriately. (Addresses VA.Pr.5.6-8.a - develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation - informal presentation)

**Assessment:**

- Observation of student participation and engagement during the activity.
- Evaluation of the completed foam sculpture based on: Evidence of combining or manipulating foam pieces. (Addresses VA.Cr.2.6-8.a)
- Creation of a recognizable three-dimensional form (even if abstract). (Addresses VA.Cr.3.6-8.a)
- Safe use of materials.

Differentiation:

- For struggling learners: Provide a limited number of pre-cut shapes for them to combine. Offer more direct instruction and assistance with gluing.
- For advanced learners: Encourage them to create slightly more complex combinations or to use the craft foam sheets to add more intricate details using scissors.

Safety Considerations:

- Strictly enforce safety rules for using low-temperature hot glue guns and scissors.
- Ensure adequate adult supervision for the use of hot glue guns.
- Use safety mats or protected surfaces to prevent damage to desks.

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