

Bugs! (art + science)

This lesson plan encourages students to explore shape and color by creating original and whimsical insects. Beginning with a discussion of the various types of insects and their unique qualities, students will proceed to design their own creature and imagine where it lives, what it eats and what its personality traits are. A portrait of their bug will be created in bright, colorful torn paper shapes.

Grade Levels K-4

Preparation

1. Begin the lesson with a brief class discussion of insects. Ask students to name the various parts of a "typical" bug (examples: legs, head, eyes, pinchers, claws, feelers, fuzz, etc.). Look at photos of interesting insects. Make a list on the board of the body parts discussed.
2. Ask students to focus on the shapes, patterns and colors they have noticed on bugs (examples: round, oval, fat, skinny, red, green, black, stiped, dotted, etc.) List these items on the board.

Process

1. Prepare preliminary sketches if desired.
2. Distribute black background paper. Direct students to develop their own insect creatures by tearing (no cutting allowed) the various parts of their bugs from colored construction paper and glue them to the black paper. Ask students to arrange all the parts before gluing in case something will need to be repositioned. The lists on the board are to be used as references for students as they proceed. The students can use all or some of the items listed.
3. Direct students to:
 - Make their bugs large enough to fit on the 9" x 12" black paper.
 - Make their bugs colorful. Use as many colors as necessary.
 - Give their bugs a personality. Their bugs can be happy, funny, shy, clever or any have other personality trait.
 - Give each bug a name that reflects its personality.
 - Put the bugs on display with the name of the bug.

Options

If time permits, or if an additional day of discussion is available, hold a class discussion during which each student talks about their bug, giving the name, personality, and any features that make each one special.



Materials

Blick 80-lb

Premium Construction Paper

50-sheet pkg of 9" x 12" Black (11409-2003), need one sheet per student

50-sheet pkg of 9" x 12" assorted colors (11409-1003), share two packages across class

Blick Art Tissue

50-sheet package of assorted colors, size 12" x 18" (11308-1006), share one package across class

Blick Glue Sticks, .74-oz Purple (23872-6520), need one stick per student

National Standards

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

K-4 Students use different media, techniques, and processes to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories

Content Standard #6 — Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines

K-4 Students identify connections between the visual arts and other disciplines in the curriculum