

Texture Critters

(art history; art + social studies)

This project lets students explore simple shapes and textures. Students draw an outline shape of an animal then fill it in with as many textures as they can think of. Study the animals of Oaxacan woodcarving. These colorful Mexican carvings are decorated with whimsical color and loaded with all-over designs. Discuss the content of the books listed in the materials section. They highlight textural designs from many cultures.

Grade Levels 3-8

Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

Process

1. Using a pencil, draw an outline of an animal on a sheet of paper. The animal should be large and fill the sheet.
2. Using the crayons, fill in the outline of the animal with as many different detail textures as the student can create from their imagination and cultural research. Try adding textural plate designs in small background areas.
3. Using a black marker, trace over the pencil outline of the animal. Make a colorful outline around the "critter" with the watercolor markers. If the outline is too close to the edge of the paper, run the marker off the edge and onto the next part of the critter outline on the drawing paper.

Options

- Use patterns, cut and past origami paper designs.
- Work with abstract shapes and design patterns in open spaces - use colored pencils.
- Cut animals out and arrange them on a hanging cloth or large piece of banner paper. Use colored pencil designs.
- Texture construction paper with crayons and texture plates. Cut out shapes to add to animal.



Materials

[Blick White Sulphite Drawing Paper](#) (10209-1013) 500-sheet package 9" x 12", need one sheet per student

[Blick Broadline Waterbased Markers](#) 200-piece classpack (21224-2009) share across classroom

[Crayola® Twistable™ Crayons Rainbow](#) 8-color set (20125-3089) share eight sets across classroom

[Shade-Tex™ Shading/Texture Plates](#), set of 6 patterns (22938-1085), share three sets across classroom

[Shadetex™ Rubbing Plates Cultural Patterns](#) set of 6 (22809-1001) share three sets across classroom

[Blick Economy Graphite Pencils](#), (20302-2009) package of 12, need one per student

Optional Resources

[Dover™ Full Color Clip Art CD-ROM and Book](#), All Over Patterns (71306-1010) and Egyptian Ornaments (71306-1013)

National Standards

Content Standard #3 — Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas

K-4 Students select and use subject matter, symbols, and ideas to communicate meaning

5-8 Students use subjects, themes, and symbols that demonstrate knowledge of contexts, values, and aesthetics that communicate intended meaning in artworks

Content Standard #4 — Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures

K-4 Students demonstrate how history, culture, and the visual arts can influence each other in making and studying works of art

5-8 Students know and compare the characteristics of artworks in various eras and cultures