

“Art History Kites”



Objective: Students will create a functional kite based on, or inspired by, a famous artist or artwork to increase artist/artwork recognition

Materials

- Dowels
- Bulletin board paper
- String
- Tape
- Tempera paint

Motivation

- To start the lesson, introduced the students to the concept of flight and art. This could cover everything from Leonardo’s flying machine to Warhol’s silver balloons.

Step 1: Design

Before construction, the first step is to have students plan what they will paint on their kites. This project should be modified depending on your desired outcome.

You may decide to have students copy a work of art from a particular artist or movement, or you may suggest that students create their designs based on an inspiration from an artist or art period. Students should create thumbnail sketches to gain an understanding of how their design will fit into a triangular shape.

Step 2: Constructing the Frame

Use two dowels to form the shape of a cross. It helps to tape the pieces together to hold them in place. Tie string around the center to bind the dowels in place. Next, tie and tape, or glue the string at the end of one dowel. Connect and tie the string to each of the other dowels till you have create a diamond shape. This is the kite’s frame.

Step 3: Construct the Kite Body

Roll out a large sheet of bulletin board paper. Lay down the dowel frame on top of the paper. The paper needs to be larger than the kite frame so that it can be folded back over the string. Cut the paper into the diamond shape created by the frame. Fold the paper over the string and tape or glue it down. Once it is dry, your kite is ready for painting.

Add a tail and string, and wait for a windy day to take your students out to fly them for Kite Day!