

African Art: Paper Beads

Ms. George

Lesson: Africa: Paper Beads

Paper beads are the oldest craft done on the African continent. Women of the villages, many living in poverty, generally make the paper beads from magazines that they find. Many organizations support and empower villages through the purchase and promotion of these beautiful paper bead creations. In this lesson, students will make their own paper bead jewelry, as well as an advertisement for their piece.

Objectives

- Students will discover the history of paper bead making.
- Students will apply their knowledge to create their own paper beads, in a similar method.
- Students will experiment with recycled paper to create their beads.
- Students will create a digital or physical advertisement of their paper jewelry.
- Students will be introduced to art critiques, and perform their own.

Essential Questions

Where do paper beads originate?
What predominant group of people make paper beads?
What is the purpose of making the paper bead jewelry?
What materials are used to make the beads?
What is a critique?
What are the different ways to critique someone's artwork?

Standards of Learning

Visual Arts

8.1 The student will apply creative thinking to artmaking.

a) Communicate ideas, experiences, and narratives through the creation of original works of art, using self-selected media.

8.6 The student will explore and understand historical and cultural influences of art.

a) Describe how works of art are influenced by social, political, and economic factors.

b) Describe how society, politics, and economics may be influenced by art.

8.15 The student will refine personal works of art to improve quality of craftsmanship.

8.16 The student will create three-dimensional works of art by combining a variety of techniques and processes.

8.17 The student will explore abstraction of subject matter.

World Geography

WG.3 The student will apply the concept of a region by

c) analyzing how cultural characteristics, including the world's major languages, ethnicities, and religions, link or divide regions

WG.6 The student will analyze the characteristics of the Latin American and Caribbean regions by

c) explaining important economic characteristics; and

d) recognizing cultural influences and landscapes.

Time

4-5 class periods, 60 minute classes

Day 1: History of African Paper Beads

-15 minutes: Introduction + History presentation and examples

-5 minutes: Demonstration + Assignment/ Project explanation and expectations

-35 minutes: work time

-5 minutes: closure questions/ clean up

Do you notice how long it takes to make a single bead? Imagine how long it must take the women of the villages in Uganda to make a basket full. Think about the type of jewelry you want to create!

Day 2: Recap/ Work Day

- 5 minutes: Recap and reminders of expectations

- 50 minutes: Work time

- 5 minutes: Cleanup

Day 3: Work day + Photo Editing

Demonstration (pending chromebook/ lab access)

- 15 minutes: Computer Demonstration of creating a digital advertisement using free photo editing sites.

- 40 minutes: work time- working on their jewelry or advertisement.

- 5 minutes: Cleanup

Day 4: Presentation/ Critique

-5 minutes: Explain Critique and instructions.

-55 minutes: Critique/ Presentation

Materials:

- Plain paper or cardstock for template
- Pencil, pen or markers
- Colorful paper (magazines, gift wrap, maps, or other paper)
- Scissors or paper cutting board
- Ruler
- Mod Podge or any type of glue such as glue sticks or bottled glue
- Clear or glitter nail polish
- Coffee Stir Sticks, thin straws, toothpicks, cotton swabs with cotton ends cut, or wire (plant flags type) (These are for wrapping paper around. What you choose depends on the size of bead hole desired.)
- Paint Brushes for applying the glue (recommend cheap disposable)
- Foam board, cups or modeling clay (to use as holder for drying beads)
- Paper towels or wet cloths (for possible mess)
- String or wire

