



LESSON 1: TISSUE PAPER TREES

Core Arts Standard: #VA:Cr1.1

Anchor Standard: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Enduring Understanding: Artists can use innovative thinking and a variety of media at once to develop a creative work of art.

Essential Question: What materials do artists work with when designing a piece of art? Can one take risks when producing a multi-media piece of art?

Grade 3

VA:Cr1.1.3

Elaborate on imaginative ideas to make tissue paper images.

Grade 4

VA:Cr1.1.4

Brainstorm multiple approaches to designing with tissue paper.

Grade 5

VA:Cr1.1.5

Combine different ideas to generate new ways to make texturized art.

Introduction (Read Aloud to Students): I'm sure you've drawn a picture with colored pencils, glued pieces of paper together, or painted a picture, but have you ever tried to combine painting and drawing and paper construction into one piece of art? Artists will often use different materials at once to create a piece of art that uses different materials such as paint or pencil at once. Today we'll combine different materials to create what is called a "mixed-media piece" using tissue paper and colored pencils.

Materials:

- Multiple sheets of colored tissue paper
- Multiple tubes of white school glue
- White construction paper (one sheet per student)
- Crayons, color pencils, markers, or other drawing materials as seen fit

Instructions:

- Explain to the students that this activity will create a multi-media piece and describe what a mixed-media technique is (using a variety of artistic materials to construct one piece).
- Have the students gather around the instructor's table for a demonstration.

- Prompt the student's imaginations by giving examples of common texturized objects such as trees, flowers, clouds, etc. Draw, for example, the trunk and branches of a tree on the white construction paper using the crayons, markers, or color pencils. Explain that the picture drawn can be any object or scenario the student may choose, such as a flower stem and leaves, a house or building, a rainbow, a heart, etc.
- Rip tiny pieces of any color of the tissue paper then set the pile aside.
- Using a crayon, marker, or color pencil, wrap a piece of the ripped tissue paper around the flat base of the utensil. Put a small dot of glue on the tissue paper then press the utensil onto the white construction paper drawing. Remove the utensil from the now glued-on piece of tissue paper, revealing a 3D piece of tissue paper that may stand up on its own.
- Continue to place tissue paper on the drawing as seen fit; for example, place the pieces around the tree branches as leaves. Continue until the surface of the paper is mostly full or the desired affect is achieved.
- Finish the piece by adding background color or additional details with the color pencils, markers, or crayons as need.
- Dismiss the students to work on the project on their own and aid as needed. Be sure to remind the students to place their name on the paper if it has not already been done.

To increase difficulty and meet standards VA:Cr1.1.4 and VA:Cr1.1.5 for more advanced students, consider using other techniques with which to use the tissue paper: glue each ripped piece of tissue paper down without crinkling it to create a stain-glass look or crumple each ripped piece of tissue paper in your fingers before gluing it down to create a less texturized look. Explain to the students that they may choose any technique they prefer or feel would be best suited to their subject. Encourage them to try several techniques and experiment with different strategies of ripping or gluing the tissue paper.

Follow Up:

- Did students attempt to create textures besides floral creations or vegetation?
- Did students have fun working with mixed media?
- Did the students experiment with different techniques in applying the tissue paper?