



Stained Glass Flower Vase

Take students on a journey back through the ages with a story about young King Arthur and an exploration of the stained glass art that dates back to medieval times.

Grade Level: 5-8

Objectives

Students will discover the history of King Arthur and explore the stained glass art of the time.
Students will create an artistic representation of a stained glass vase.

Literature Selection

Arthur and the Sword by Robert Sabuda

Skills

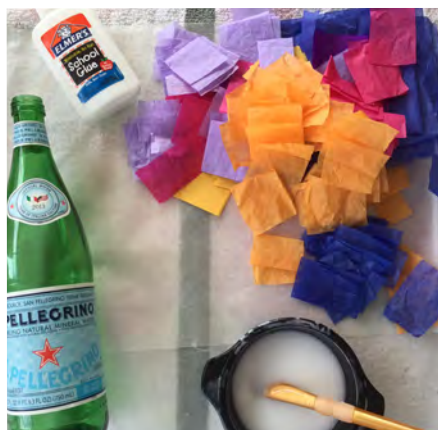
color composition, shapes, inferences made from text

Set up and Prepare

Content Overview

Begin the lesson by tapping into what students already know about King Arthur. Read the book *Arthur and the Sword* by Robert Sabuda to the students. Discuss the legend of Excalibur, and engage the students in a dialogue about tales derived from folklore that are often a blend of history and fantasy. What inferences can they make from the text that would indicate this is folklore? Which parts of the story seem unreal, magical or mythical? Discuss how the story elements interact to portray a historical representation of history.

As you discuss the story, share the powerful stained glass illustrations in the book. Ask students to share examples of stained glass that they might see in their own community. Explain that stained glass art dates back as far as the 7th Century.



Materials

Elmer's® School Glue, glass bottle (clean and empty), paint brushes, shallow bowls, tissue paper (various colors), Elmer's® Painters® black marker

Preparation

Cover your work surface with a vinyl tablecloth or large sheets of wax paper. Provide students with brightly colored tissue paper. Instruct them to cut the tissue paper into small squares (approximately 1-2 inches). In a shallow bowl, prepare a glue solution of one part Elmer's School Glue and one part water. Mix well.

Directions

Use a paintbrush to apply a thin layer of the glue mixture on the bottle. While the glue is still wet, place tissue paper squares on the bottle. Don't worry about placing the tissue paper squares precisely, as you'll be adding various layers throughout the process.

Smooth the tissue paper squares as you add more layers. When the bottle is completely covered with tissue paper, allow it to dry in a place where it will not be disturbed.

When the first layer has dried, apply another layer of tissue paper squares. Continue this process until you can no longer see the label under the tissue paper. Allow to dry completely.

Use an Elmer's Painters marker to create the black lead look between the tissue paper colors. Draw a border between the colors. Don't worry about precision, but try to draw polygons with straight lines that separate the colors.

**Lesson Extensions**

Design an original coat of arms. Medieval knights used heraldry, the symbolic meanings of animals, shapes, and colors used on shields, to identify themselves beneath layers of armor. Students can use their own coat of arms to tell others about themselves.

Read *The Knight with the Lion* by John Howe. Compare and contrast the two stories in terms of fact and fiction.

Research various knights in King Arthur's court. Make "baseball cards" of the knights with their pictures on the front and their "statistics" or information on the back.

Write a paragraph explaining which they would rather have as a King – the sword Excalibur or the scabbard.

Standards

CCSS: ELA-Literacy: Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS: ELA-Literacy: Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).

CCSS: ELA-Literacy: Analyze how two or more authors writing about the same topic shape their presentations of key information by emphasizing different evidence or advancing different interpretations of facts.