Unit 3: Positive and Negative Space

Content Area: **Visual Arts**
Course(s): **Visual Arts**
Time Period: **Week 21**
Length: **8 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

In this unit, students will explore several different ways artists create positive and negative space in artwork. The students will experiment with a variety of techniques and styles. The unit will conclude with the exploration of the use of negative space outside and within the main subject of a piece of art.

Standards

VPA.K-2.1.1.2.D.1	Identify the basic elements of art and principles of design in diverse types of artwork.
VPA.K-2.1.1.2.D.2	Identify elements of art and principles of design in specific works of art and explain how they are used.
VPA.K-2.1.2.2.A.1	Identify characteristic theme-based works of dance, music, theatre, and visual art, such as artworks based on the themes of family and community, from various historical periods and world cultures.
VPA.K-2.1.2.2.A.2	Identify how artists and specific works of dance, music, theatre, and visual art reflect, and are affected by, past and present cultures.
VPA.K-2.1.3.2.D.1	Create two- and three-dimensional works of art using the basic elements of color, line, shape, form, texture, and space, as well as a variety of art mediums and application methods.
VPA.K-2.1.3.2.D.3	Employ basic verbal and visual art vocabulary to demonstrate knowledge of the materials, tools, and methodologies used to create and tell visual stories.
VPA.K-2.1.3.2.D.4	Explore the use of a wide array of art mediums and select tools that are appropriate to the production of works of art in a variety of art media.
VPA.K-2.1.3.2.D.5	Create works of art that are based on observations of the physical world and that illustrate how art is part of everyday life, using a variety of art mediums and art media.

Essential Questions

1. Where do artists get their ideas?

2. How does technology contribute to change in the visual arts?

3. Are positive and negative space equally important?

Application of Knowledge and Skills...

Students will know that...

- 1. A positive space stands out from the background.
- 2. A negative space defines a positive space.
- 3. Romare Bearden is an American artist who is famous for creating collages which combined paint, shapes, and photographs.
- 4. Georgia O'Keeffe painted enlarged objects in a simple style.
- 5. Oil pastels are an effective medium to highlight the contrast between positive and negative space.

Students will be able to...

- a. Identify the positive space in an artwork.
- b. Identify the negative space in an artwork.
- c. Identify and imitate the style of Romare Bearden.
- d. Identify and imitate the style of Georgia O'Keeffe.
- e. Apply oil pastels to a painting to add texture to the positive space.

Assessments

- Enlarged Flower with Texture Summative: Visual Arts Project Students will use oil pastels to give lines and shapes more definition and to add texture to the "Enlarged Flower" work. 1.1.2.D.1 1.1.2.D.2 1.2.2.A.1 1.2.2.A.2 1.3.2.D.1 1.3.2.D.3 1.3.2.D.4 1.3.2.D.5
- Art Notes Formative: Other visual assessments While watching a DVD about Romare Bearden, the students will draw one picture of any piece of art that interested them in the video. 1.2.2.A.1 1.2.2.A.2 1.3.2.D.5
- Cut-outs Diagnostic: Other visual assessments Students will create six cut out shapes (heart, star, shamrock) and paste the shapes in a pleasing manner on a larger piece of paper. 1.1.2.D.2 1.3.2.D.5
- Enlarged Flower Formative: Other visual assessments Students will look at a photo of a flower and they will realistically draw an enlarged flower. 1.1.2.D.1 1.3.2.D.1 1.3.2.D.3
- Enlarged Flower with Paint Formative: Other visual assessments After students realistically draw an enlarged flower on their paper, they will paint the flower using primary and secondary tempera paint colors. 1.1.2.D.1 1.3.2.D.1 1.3.2.D.3 1.3.2.D.4
- Magazine Collage Formative: Other visual assessments Students will create a collage by cutting pictures from magazines and cutting shapes out of the pictures. 1.1.2.D.1 1.1.2.D.2 1.2.2.A.1 1.2.2.A.2

Activities

- Discuss the painting, *Four Hearts,* identify the foreground and the background
- Explain the difference between positive and negative space
- Look at labels on different products at home, and identify positive and negative space in advertising
- Look at collages created by Romare Bearden; discuss how Bearden created these collages
- Read from Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists about Georgia O'Keeffe and discuss how O'Keeffe used enlarged positive space to capture the viewer's attention
- Teach students how to draw a flower; by starting in the middle of the flower
- Review steps to properly use tempera paint and the application techniques which achieve subtle edges
- Demonstrate how to use oil pastels, so that lines are more definite and texture can be conveyed in a picture
- Discuss how trees are natural positive shapes in nature compared to the background of the sky
- Discuss how background space, such as a sky, is considered negative space in art
- Have students identify in various artwork, the positive and the negative spaces

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

- Vary the number of shapes students will use in their "Cut-outs" project
- For the "Magazine Collage", the students may attempt to show nighttime or daytime
- Students work at their own pace/teacher-reduced project expectations
- Review and repeat instructions
- Use proximity control
- Incorporate frequent modeling and prompting
- Use visuals, when possible, to accompany instructions
- Preferential seating

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

After students have learned about the use of positive and negative space in advertising, they will explore the effect of advertising on themselves. In language arts, the students will write briefly an advertisement they recently encountered and the effect of the advertisement on their thinking.

Resources

- Adventures in Art, Grade Two by Laura H. Chapman, Davis Publications, 2008

- Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists by Mike Venezia, Getting to Know Incorporated, 2008
- *Four Hearts* by Jim Dine
- Dropping in on Romare Bearden by Jim McNeill and Pam Stephens, Crystal Productions, 2008
- Art supplies