

Lesson Plan: Dale Chihuly-Inspired Collaborative Sculpture

Date: Tuesday, Nov 12

Time: 70 minutes

Unit: Sculpture & 3D Art – Inspired by Dale Chihuly

Grade Level: 6th Grade

Subject: Art

Lesson Overview

Students will collaborate to create a large-scale sculpture inspired by Dale Chihuly's vibrant glass art. Using pre-painted plastic bottles, they will cut, shape, and paint each piece, then assemble them into an organic, flowing form. This project emphasizes teamwork, color theory, and installation art.

Lesson Objectives:

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Manipulate plastic bottles to create spirals and star shapes.
 2. Apply color theory through vibrant painting techniques to their individual pieces.
 3. Collaborate with classmates to assemble their pieces into a unified, large-scale sculpture, inspired by Chihuly's work.
 4. Demonstrate understanding of key vocabulary (sculpture, organic shape, collaboration, assemblage).
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Materials & Supplies:

- Pre-painted plastic bottles (from previous session)
 - Scissors (1 per student)
 - Hole punches (shared among students)
 - String or wire (to assemble sculpture)
 - Example images of Dale Chihuly's sculptures and chandeliers
 - Markers, paint, and brushes (for touch-up)
 - Safety gloves (optional for students needing assistance with handling materials)
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Key Vocabulary:

- **Collaborative Art:** Art created by working together as a group.

- **Sculpture:** A 3D form of artistic expression.
 - **Color Theory:** The concept of how colors interact and influence one another.
 - **Organic Shape:** Forms that are irregular or asymmetrical, often found in nature.
 - **Recycled Materials:** Materials that have been repurposed for use in art.
 - **Assembly:** The process of putting together separate components to create a whole.
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Lesson Targets:

1. **Cut and Shape Plastic Bottles:** Students will cut plastic bottles into spirals and star shapes, focusing on creating flowing, organic forms.
 2. **Paint and Design:** Students will paint their bottles using bold colors and designs inspired by Chihuly's vibrant palette.
 3. **Collaborate and Assemble:** Students will work together to assemble the individual pieces into a cohesive sculpture that mimics Chihuly's glass art.
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Lesson Introduction (5 minutes):

1. **Introduction & Recap:**
 - Recap Dale Chihuly's glass sculptures, emphasizing his use of light, color, and flowing forms.
 - Show examples of Chihuly's chandeliers and explain how today's activity will use plastic bottles to create a similar effect.
 - Review safety guidelines for using scissors and hole punches to cut plastic bottles.
 2. **Learning Goals:**
 - Share the lesson objectives: creating vibrant, Chihuly-inspired sculptures using recycled materials.
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Pre-Cutting Discussion (10 minutes):

1. **Class Discussion:**
 - Discuss the types of shapes students can create: spirals, stars, or other organic forms.
 - Talk about how different shapes and sizes will contribute to the overall sculpture.
 2. **Demonstration:**
 - Show the class how to safely cut the bottles into spirals and star shapes.
 - Highlight the importance of color placement when painting their pieces.
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Work Time: Cutting and Shaping (45 minutes):

1. Individual Work:

- Students will cut and shape their pre-painted bottles into the desired forms (spirals, stars, etc.).
- After cutting, students can touch up or add additional designs using paint and markers.

2. Teacher Support:

- Circulate around the room to provide one-on-one assistance with cutting techniques and ensuring students use tools safely.
 - Check for creativity in shapes and colors, ensuring each student is contributing to the final sculpture.
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Clean-Up and Reflection (10 minutes):

1. Clean-Up:

- Students will clean up their workstations, put away scissors, and dispose of scraps responsibly.

2. Class Discussion:

- Engage students in a reflective discussion on how their pieces will come together to form a larger sculpture.
 - Questions for reflection:
 - How did your design reflect Chihuly's style?
 - What challenges did you face while cutting or designing your bottle?
 - How do you think our individual pieces will come together as one sculpture?
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Differentiation Strategies:

● ESE (Exceptional Student Education) Learners:

- Provide pre-cut bottles for students struggling with fine motor skills so they can focus on painting and assembly.
- Offer visual demonstrations step-by-step, using visual aids for cutting techniques.
- Pair students with peers for collaborative support.

● ELL (English Language Learners):

- Use labeled diagrams to visually demonstrate key vocabulary terms.
 - Provide bilingual instructions or pair ELL students with bilingual classmates for additional support.
 - Use gestures and clear, slow language to reinforce instructions.
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Assessment:

- **Formative Assessment:** Monitor students' engagement, creativity, and safe use of tools during the cutting process.
- **Participation:** Ensure all students are contributing to the project and following safety guidelines. Check if they are applying key concepts like shape, form, and color theory to their work.

Image References

DIY Chihuly Sculpture



Made of recycled plastic bottles & chicken wire!

