

# Visual Arts Lesson: The Elements of Art

**Title:** Elements of Art accordion book

**Grade/Age Level:** 6th grade

**Time Frame:** 4-5 Days



**Description of lesson:** Students will be introduced to the Elements of Art. The art project will be an accordion book in which they draw the same image 7 different ways to describe each of the elements.

## **Standards: California Visual Arts Standards**

6.VA:Cr2.1 - Demonstrate openness in trying new ideas, materials, methods, and approaches in making works of art and design.

6.VA:Re7.2 - Analyze ways that visual components and cultural associations suggested by images influence ideas, emotions, and actions.

## **Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes:** (list)

*Students will be able to:*

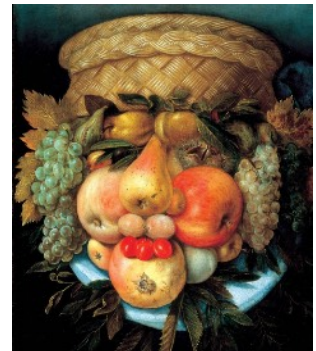
- *Identify the elements of art*
- *Create art work using the elements of art*
- *Talk about artwork using the academic language of the elements of art*

## **Focus Artwork**

**Title and date:** The Fruit Basket, 1950

**Artist name and lifespan:** Guiseppe Arcimboldo (1526-1593)

**Medium:** Oil on Canvas



## **Materials and Resources:** (list)

### **Art Materials**

- Paper for accordion book
- Led Pencil
- Colored pencil
- Sharpie
- Colored construction paper
- Scissors

- Glue sticks

### ***Instructional Resources***

- ***Projector***

### **Procedures: Day 1**

#### **Anticipatory Set**

Students will stand in a large circle. We will around the circle, each student naming a dish their family enjoyed on Thanksgiving. (This lesson took place directly after Thanksgiving break. At a different time of year, student could name a favorite food that their family enjoys). Once everyone has had a turn, write the name of the most popular dish on the whiteboard. Have students name all the ingredients in that dish.

Introduce the elements of art as the ingredients to art. Show a slide naming the 7 elements of art, and have students say them all out loud together.

#### **Activity**

There are seven stations around the classroom, each one dedicated to one element of art. Each station has a sheet naming the element of art, a task to pursue with the provided materials at that station, and a focus artwork that demonstrates an example. Student rotate in groups through the stations, having exactly 5 minutes at each station.

(See activity station sheets)

### **Procedure: Day 2**

#### **Anticipatory Set**

Recall the previous day's activity as a way to explore the elements. Ask students what tasks they enjoyed, what surprised them, and what they found challenging.

#### **Direct Instruction**

- Introduce the elements of art accordion book with slide show of project.
  - Students will choose one image that will be repeated 7 times in the book.
  - Each panel will focus on one of the elements of art.
- Each element will be introduced one at a time with specific criteria of how to create that panel.
- Students must not move ahead on their own! Wait until they have the instruction for each element.
- **Line:** Introduce first focus element, with criteria. (See self assessment rubric)

**Guided Practice**

- I will direct the folding of the accordion book in real time with the class.

**Independent Practice**

- Students will pick the image that they will use for all of the elements of art images.
- Students will create their first image.

**Procedures: Day 3-5****Anticipatory Set**

- Why is it important to learn about the elements of art?
  1. To be better artists
  2. To be able to talk about art
  3. To be able to appreciate art

**Direct Instruction**

- Introduce next focus element. (See rubric) As students complete elements, have entire class pause and introduce the next focus element.

**Independent Practice**

- Students will continue to complete each panel, checking the self assessment rubric before moving on to the next panel.

**Accommodations and/or Modifications:**

- Chunk tasks by breaking each panel into smaller steps with check-ins.
- Bilingual Vocabulary cards for each element
- Allow use of printed or stenciled images instead of hand-drawn images for students who struggle with fine motor tasks.

**Vocabulary:**

- The Elements of Art: The seven elements of art are line, shape, space, value, form, texture, and color. These elements are the building blocks, or ingredients, of art.
- Line:  
A mark made on a surface, creating a path that can be straight, curved, thick, thin, or implied.
- Shape:  
A flat, two-dimensional area enclosed by a line, which can be geometric (circle, square) or organic (freeform).
- Form:  
A three-dimensional object with height, width, and depth, which can be perceived through shading and perspective.
- Color:  
The visual perception of light reflected from a surface, described by its hue, saturation, and value.

- Value:  
The lightness or darkness of a color, ranging from white (lightest) to black (darkest).
- Space:  
The area around, between, and within objects in a composition, creating a sense of depth or distance.
- Texture:  
The perceived surface quality of an object, whether it appears smooth, rough, soft, or hard.