

Molas

Date: March 5-8 & 18-22, 25

Big Concepts: Nature and Environment

Teks: Art Grade 1:

Perception: 1.1A Identify similarities, differences, and variations among subjects, using the senses. **1.1B Identify color, texture, form, and emphasis in nature and in the human-made environment.**

Creative Expression/Performance: **1.2A Invent images that combine a variety of colors, forms and lines. 1.2B Place forms in orderly arrangement to create designs.** 1.2C Increase manipulative skills, using a variety of materials to produce drawings, paintings, prints and constructions.

Historical/Cultural Heritage: 1.3A Identify simple ideas expressed in artworks through different media. 1.3B Select artworks that show families and groups. 1.3C Identify the use of art in everyday life.

Response/Evaluation: **1.4A Express ideas about personal artworks.** 1.4B Identify simple ideas about original artworks, portfolios, and exhibitions by peers and others.

Materials: Markers, scissors, Pencil, glue, mola patterns, colored construction paper, fabric

Content Objective:

- Students learn about Mola.
- Students learn about the Kuna Indians and their artwork.
- Students learn about appliqué.

Vocabulary Objective:

- Students review patterns.
- Students will be able to identify lines, texture, patterns and shapes.

Project Objective:

Students will create a mola with bright colors and patterns.

Activities:

Introduction:

Authentic molas are brightly colored pieces of intricately appliquéd cloth made by the Kuna Indians who live on the San Blas Islands off the east coast of Panama. The Kunas live on approximately 50 of the more than 365 of these islands today. They originally resided in the Panama/Colombia area for centuries. The first molas began to appear in the late 1800s. Today, Kuna Indians still lead a tribal life with strong traditions in spite of their daily interaction with the many ships that pass through the canal.

The Kuna women sew as much as they can between the chores of everyday life. Girls are taught to make Molas as early as 4 or 5 years old. A woman, taking great pride in craftsmanship and intricate design, might spend up to 100 hours completing a Mola. Favorite colors are red, yellow, and black. The designs are inspired from observations of the world around them, whether it's a geometric design, vegetation, animal, or man-made object. Today, molas are sold all over the world and because of a well-organized co-op, most of the proceeds return to the Kuna people.

Three types of appliqué are incorporated into a mola. Reverse appliqué is the process where different colored fabrics are layered, the shapes or designs are cut out of the upper layers to reveal the layers below. The raw edges are then delicately turned under and hand stitched together with thousands of intricate stitches. Overlay appliqué is process where a cut-out fabric shape is attached on the surface in same manner. The third process is inlay appliqué which utilizes bits of fabric by sandwiching them in between existing layers to create a wider variety of background colors.

This project incorporates the wonderful traditional mola designs into bright paper collage.

Project:

1. Draw one large mola shape on the white paper.
2. Color 2-3 bands of color around the object.
3. Color in the mola.
4. Cut out the mola.
5. Add glue to the back of the mola.
6. Attached the mola to construction paper and lay out strips of colored paper.
7. Glue strips of paper to the mola.

Checks For Understanding:

Students tell 2 or more students about their pictures.