



Japanese Kimono Design

Grade Level: 5th Grade

Art Content Standard: Compare and contrast the artistic styles observed in art work from various cultures.
Analyze, explore, and select, for use, a specific media/medium in the creation of an art work to achieve artistic intent.

Materials: Photos of traditional kimonos
Field trip to KIMONO AS ART exhibition if possible
Kimono example if possible
Handout on kimono history and use
Handout on Japanese crests
Handout on block printing
12x18 colored paper
Two sheets 9x12 same colored paper
Two sheets 9x12 other color
Small contrasting colored strip
6 inch Styrofoam circle
Ballpoint pen
9 x12 newsprint
Printer's ink
Brayers and trays
1 ½ x 1 ½ printer's block
Carving tool
Gold stamp pad
Gold pens or paint

Resources: Kate O' Halloran, *Hands-on Culture of Japan*, Walch Publishing 1997.
Japan, Creative Printing Press

Procedure: Four 40-minute class periods

1. Read handout on the kimono and discuss the history and use of the kimono in the Japanese culture.
2. Discuss the development and use of Japanese crests to identify members of families. What symbol would you use to identify you or your family?
3. Trace a 6 inch circle onto newsprint and design your own family crest. Think of qualities, sports, activities that they enjoy.
4. Transfer this to to Styrofoam circle then carve into the Styrofoam to create a printing plate.
5. Use a brayer to ink the printing plate and make 2 prints on colored 9x12 paper.
6. Let dry and cut into circles.
7. Create kimono by placing 12x18 paper lengthwise then round off 1 corner of each 9x12 paper for sleeves and glue to side of 12x18.
8. Create collar by taking strip of paper and folding diagonally at each end.
9. Glue to neck area.
10. Glue family crest to back of kimono.
11. Design a printing block by creating a symbol for your initials, a calligraphy symbol, or a Japanese motif.
12. Use this printing block and stamp pad to decorate kimono.
13. Kimono may be further embellished with gold pens and paint.

Assessment: Student can discuss the contributions of the Japanese culture and compare traditional Japanese dress to traditional American dress. Student creates a printing plate and stamp and uses these to embellish a traditional Japanese kimono.

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