

Paper Nine Patch 3rd/4th Grade Art Lesson

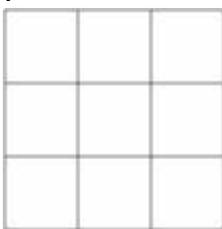
Jennifer Ogden, 2008



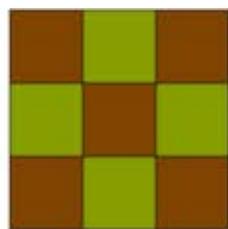
Indian Men Wear Shirts and Ties
Lithography/ paper pulp. 1997 42"X29"

Description:

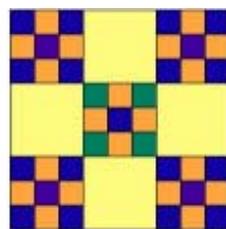
Students will create a Nine Patch composition using original drawings and copies of family photos, inspired by, INDIAN MEN WEAR SHIRTS and TIES by Juane Quick-to-See Smith, as well as the children's book, THE WAR SHIRT, by Bently Spang, illustrated by Troy Anderson



Nine Patch Grid



Basic Nine Patch Block



Nine Patch w/Divisions

Duration:

Four one-hour sessions.

Materials:

Pencil, paper, ruler, scissors, 3"x5" index card or a stiff paper scrap, extra family photos (ones that are okay to cut up and use), original drawings or copies of those drawings (which are okay to cut up and use), glue stick or paste, 12"x12" piece of mat board or fadeless paper of similar size for mounting the finished composition if desired.

Goals and Learning Objectives:

Students will study. INDIAN MEN WEAR SHIRTS and TIES by Juane Quick-to-See Smith.

Students will hypothesize possible meanings they find from the combination of symbols found in the artwork.

Students will read the story THE WAR SHIRT, by Bently Spang, illustrated by Troy Anderson. Orlando, FL.: Rigby, 1999.

Students will discuss possible similarities communicated by the works of Smith and Spang.

Students will create a collage inspired by the ideas discussed in the lesson, and by personal experience.

Teacher Resources:

www.missoulaartmuseum.org

(Click on "experience", then "search the collection", search for INDIAN MEN WEAR SHIRTS and TIES by Juane Quick-to-See Smith. Click on descriptive list, as well as image.

<http://www.oyate.org/aboutus.html>

This is an informative web resource for educators providing a voice for Native perspectives, including reviews of literature about American Indian subjects. Click on "catalog" for brief overviews of children's literature ranked by age level. (See below, from Oyate catalog).

Spang, Bently (Cheyenne), **The War Shirt**. 1999, color illustrations by Troy Anderson (Cherokee).

Young Troy, a budding artist, lives with his parents in the city, far from the "*many-colored painted hills and the sweet pure air*" of his home reservation in Montana. When he gets to visit his grandparents, Troy is treated to a summer of Cheyenne art and culture—and he also learns that there are more than a few ways of making art and keeping traditions alive. This beautifully illustrated, appealing little story will resonate with Indian kids everywhere.

www.artsmia.org/beauty-honor-tradition/

This is an excellent site by the Minnesota Institute of Art which partnered with the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Indian to feature the 2004 exhibition, BEAUTY, HONOR and TRADITION: The LEGACY of PLAINS INDIAN SHIRTS. Beautifully photographed examples of Plains Indian Shirts can be found here, along with background information as well as quotes from tribal elders.

Vocabulary:

Symbol- Something used for or representing something else. An emblem, token or sign.

War Shirt-Plains Indian shirts are traditional garments that draw importance from and also bestow status and honor upon the people chosen to wear them. Initially made of animal hide, the shirts are beautifully embellished with combinations of quillwork, brass or glass beads, hair, cotton, wool and paint among other materials. Indian artisans past and present have used the War Shirt as an astonishing canvas for innovative and creative compositions. Their iconic beauty serves as inspiration for many contemporary American Indian artists.

Nine Patch- A basic and versatile quilt pattern from 19th century America. Historically, it was often the pattern used by boys and girls who were first learning to sew, a handwork activity in many one-room schoolhouses. Nine Patch refers to three rows of three squares, which may be left solid or fragmented with tinier squares, triangles, stripes or organic shapes. It is the basis for such colorfully named patterns as, "Little Ship of Dreams", "Contrary Wife", "Churn Dash", "Turkey in the Straw", and "Card Trick", among others.

Learning Sparks:

Have students study, INDIAN MEN WEAR SHIRTS and TIES by Juane Quick-to-See Smith, reading the image for meaning and utilizing the clues or ideas given within the composition, such as symbolism, and the title of the work itself.

Read THE WAR SHIRT, by Bently Spang. Discuss what ideas the art print and the story have in common. What do the traditional and modern War Shirts symbolize to Spang's main character, Troy?

Discussion ideas:

Troy is a city kid who visits his Grandparents in Montana, learning about their connection to the land and the traditional ways of their tribe. Do you think he can just go visit the mall and buy a War Shirt? Let's answer that question with a question. Does an Olympic athlete shop at the "Gold Medal Store" and pick up a few wins? Clearly not! Honors are earned through patience, effort, and self-discipline. On top of that, your community also has to agree that you have earned the honor. So it is an achievement that is both personal and public.

Through Troy's grandparents he has a rich connection to traditional ways, yet just like you he is a child of modern times. We know that Troy is creative, and it is inspiring how he stitches together a war shirt made of his own original photographs-photographs that depict the land and people and traditions that are significant to Troy.

Steps and Procedures:

Making war shirts would not be appropriate, but something that spans a lot of different cultures, including many Native American tribes, is quilting.

Using ruler and a pencil, lay out a Nine Patch design with three rows of three, 3" squares. (Start by making a 9"x9" square. Divide the square into nine boxes). This will be the basic composition for your photo/drawing quilt. How to visually break up the 3"x3" boxes is a matter of personal choice.

Using the index card, measure a one-inch square in the center and cut it out, leaving a window for a viewfinder. Use the viewfinder on photographs and drawings, encourage students to looking for pieces of the image that are meaningful for them. It could be a face, or the way people are holding hands in the picture. It could be a brother's crooked smile or a sister's knobby knees. (Family photographs are not always perfect and that's what makes them dear to us)! Once they have isolated a square from their photos, they will trace it through the window of the viewfinder with a pencil. If there is room for more- isolate more parts of the picture. Carefully cut them out. Do the same activity for the drawings.

Students will create small compositions with tiny squares inside each 3" square.

Before they glue the parts to your Nine Patch, students should experiment with placement of the parts. They might also want to make a viewfinder with a different shape, such as a triangle, stripe or heart.

Have students consider elements such as texture and contrast of the photos they are using. Is there a way they can use these elements to create a strong pattern?

Another suggestion is to mix patterned paper or solid colors into your quilt composition.

Mount the image onto mat board or a piece of fadeless color paper. Students should include a title and signature.

Assessment:

Students should be able to identify through verbal expression the dual significance of contemporary and traditional objects for people who have a place in both worlds.

Visual checks and a show of appreciation for emerging ideas are helpful to foster a positive learning environment.

Have students discuss their work, while encouraging the use of vocabulary and people discussed in the lesson.

FOLLOW UP:

Take some time to explore

<http://www.artsmia.org/beauty-honor-tradition/>

for a good look at War Shirts from different tribes and time periods.

Explore the Internet for Nine Patch quilt block patterns and their numerous variations.

Do the same for Star Quilt patterns, which are an important part of contemporary Native community life.