

The Art of Making Paper

Subject: Art

Grade Level: 6-8

Rationale or Purpose:

To create awareness of various materials used in papermaking during the Late/Middle Ages and present day. To analyze and compare the effectiveness, cost, and value of different materials available. To familiarize students with the process of papermaking and purpose of watermarks.

Materials:

- Examples of papers made from various pulps (handmade paper and mass produced copy paper)
- Vellum or parchment examples
- Examples of papers with and without watermarks
- Access to Internet or printed information on history of papermaking
- Various forms of pulp (cotton, linen, paper)
- Vocabulary list (pulp, watermark, parchment, vellum, manuscript, Papermaking materials (mold or screen, vat or dishpan, felt, press)
- Optional items to incorporate into the paper (dried flowers, colors, threads, etc.)
- Thin wire to create watermarks for extension activity

Lesson Duration: Four 60-75 minute class periods

Objectives: Art – 117.32

- (6.1), (7.1), (8.1) develop and organize ideas
- (6.2), (7.2), (8.2) create artwork based on observation and imagination; practical application of artwork; produce fiberart using variety of materials in traditional and experimental ways
- (7.3), (8.3), (8.3) analyze ways historical issues influence artworks and cultural context
- (6.4), (7.4), (8.4) make informed judgments

Activity:

Step 1: Look at, feel, and compare the examples of the different paper forms in small group. Teacher led whole class discussion of observations.

Step 2: Define papermaking vocabulary.

Step 3: Guide students through the **Gutenberg Education Module** and give a brief overview of the importance of the printing of the Gutenberg Bible.

Step 4: Research papermaking on the Internet paying careful attention to the history of the papermaking process used during the printing of the Gutenberg Bible. Find reasons

for changes in papermaking materials and the process once printing with moveable type was being used.

<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/exhibitions/education/modules/gutenberg/invention/papermaking>

Step 5: Allow students to create handmade paper using pulp made from cotton or linen materials and from plant material.

Step 6: When papers are dry and there is a nice assortment, have students compare thickness, durability, aesthetic qualities, and cost. Tie the observations to the materials used to create paper at the time of the printing of the Gutenberg Bible and the value/expense of books during that time period vs. current day.

Modifications:

Notes and vocabulary can be typed out for students needing assistance. Students can work in pairs for Internet research and/or the papermaking process if needed. Steps can be written out in simple terms and posted at papermaking station or on a checklist.

Student Product:

2-3 handmade pieces of paper using different pulps, vocabulary list of terms

Closure:

Who would make paper by hand and why? What would handmade paper be used for? Take the different handmade papers and the manufactured paper and order them as you see their value (aesthetic and monetary).

Evaluation:

Is the student able to see the labor-intensive process of making sheets of paper by hand? Is the student able to differentiate values of various materials to make pulp? Is the student able to understand reasons for change in the processes and materials used to create paper once text could be printed rather than scribed?

Extension:

Students can utilize the information on the Ransom Center website that refers to the watermarks found in the Gutenberg Bible, design a personal logo, and create a watermark using the thin wire. They can then use the pulp of their choice and make a new paper incorporating their watermark.

Activity by:

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