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**Visual Arts &  
Culture  
Virtually!**

# Seeing The World Through Recycled Objects, In A Time of Social Distancing Experience (Art & Culture Virtually!)

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### **Detailed Description of the Project:**

Grades 1-5 students will begin this 5-activity unit with the introduction of five cultures through art and found objects. Students will be shown examples via zoom lessons if virtual or given examples to see in person via small group setting.

### **Project and Materials Needed:**

#### The Legend of the Blue Willow, China

- Paper plate, water color or markers and brushes

#### Prehistoric Cave Paintings, Prehistory

- Cardboard, oil pastels and dirt or sand and glue

#### Wire Sculptures, The continent of Africa

- Scrap wire, garden wire and cardboard and a glue gun

#### “Wigged Out” United States

- Paper strips or recycled newspaper cut 14 of an inch or smaller, paper plates, any found object to add, glue and a glue gun

#### Color Wrapping, Mexico

- Different color of yarn, glue, a recycled form; a paper cup, vase, bottle etc.. wipes

### **Explanation of Unit:**

*During the social distancing experience, it is important for my students to keep engaged and actively create at home. This unit was designed with art supply limitation in mind. True North Classical Academy’s K-5 art students will participate in a five activity unit entitled, “Seeing the World Through Found Objects.” Students will be exposed to cultural works of art, while creating art from materials they found at home. As a virtual art team and in person art team, we will create an online and in the art studio.*

**Objectives:**

**Social Awareness Objectives:**

*Students will:*

- Be exposed to the art and customs of our world cultures
- Develop an appreciation of all peoples within our world
- Analyze how found objects link culture together

**Fine Arts Objectives:**

*Students will:*

- Develop an understanding of process through multiple steps within the lesson.
- Experiment with a variety of techniques and mediums
- Create works with objects that are found within their home while social distancing

**Language Arts Objective:**

*Students will:*

- Research specific cultures and customs.
- Compare and contrast similarities and differences of examples of art from culture to culture

**Standards:**

*VA.1.H.1.1 Discuss how different works of art communicate information about a particular culture.*

*VA.1.O.1.In.a: Explore the placement of the structural elements of art in personal works of art.*

*VA.1.C.1.1 Create and discuss works of art that convey personal interests.*

*VA.2.C.1.2 Reflect on and discuss various possible meanings in works of art.*

*VA:Cr2.1.4a Explore and engage in art-making*

*VA:Cr2.3.4a Document, describe, and represent regional constructed environments.*

*VA:Pr6.1.3a Identify and explain how and where different cultures record and illustrate stories and history of life through art*

*VA:Re8.1.K Interpret art by identifying subject matter and describing relevant details*

## Week One: "The Legend of the Blue Willow"

After the introduction, we will begin our journey around the world. Our first stop will begin in Asia. Students will learn about China's "Legend of the Blue Willow." We will read the Legend together and students will be introduced to the beautiful patterned China inspired by the "Blue Willow." From paper plates or paper cups they may find in their home, they will design their own interpretation, using blue markers and water.

### Resources:

- Step by Step Pre Recorded Lesson: Youtube channel, Sara Alfaro, Art Educator: <https://youtu.be/iDBCRS3SjvQ>
- Detail explanation of the history behind the dishware: <https://cartarchaeology.wordpress.com/2016/06/10/bluwillow/>
- Animated visual story: <https://youtu.be/sATUNcrVnCg>

### Step by Step Instructions:

1. Introduce a picture of the "Blue Willow Pattern" to the students.
2. Explain that China was the influential country where this legend derived from.
3. Show them China on a map.
4. Play the Sara Alfaro, Legend of the Blue Video step by step prerecorded lesson or watch and follow the same format.
5. Show resource visual that details the explanation of the history, "cartaarcheology."
6. Pass out plates and have students create their inspiration of the legend.
7. Have students paint in only blue water color or draw with water soluble markers over their pencil drawing.
8. While students are drawing and painting, play the animated visual story.

*Alternative material for virtual students or classes that do not have watercolors: Apply water soluble marker and brush water over the marker. It will look like a watercolor application*



## Week Two: Prehistoric Cave Painting

Students will explore the prehistoric art created preserved on cave walls from several sites around the world. We will have a class discussion about two symbols represented with the composition. After our introduction, students will gather the found cardboard and develop a drawing using oil pastel inspired by the examples they observed. The second step is to watercolor over their oil pastel drawings. The final step is to reuse sand or earth to embellish their art.

### Resources:

- "Cave Painting with Mrs. Alfaro" <https://youtu.be/p2P6McfuwZs>
- "Cave Painting with Our Ancestors" <https://youtu.be/ezNbeQ5QPr4>
- "Take a Tour" <https://vimeo.com/40849516>
- <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/lascaux-cave-paintings-discovered>

### Step by Step Instructions:

1. Introduce "Cave Painting with Mrs. Alfaro video" or create a powerpoint of specific examples.
2. Explain in detail examples of why it is important to have works of art from the past and how we learn from them.
3. Show the map of where specific regions have evidence of cave art.
4. Share the video of step by step hands on activity, Cave Painting with Our Ancestors." This will give you a child's perspective of each step of the assignment.
5. "Take a Tour" video that shows a 3d visual of what it would look like if you were walking through the caves.
6. Students will gather their pieces of cardboard, oil pastels and pencil and begin to create pictographs or symbols that represent what they were exposed to from the resources.
7. After drawing in pencil, students will trace over their drawings with oil pastels. (Earth tones only, to emphasize the use of organic tools and materials available in prehistory.)
8. Apply watercolor over oil pastel drawing.
9. Finally, Complete by adding small amounts of glue and sprinkling sand for embellishment and texture.

*With this assignment, you can pace your time with more emphasis on the introductory information or limit and take more time on the creation process.*



### Week Three: Wire Sculptures

After viewing the Contemporary African Art website, students will have a class discussion of what type of theme they would like to embark upon. Once they develop a theme, students will learn simple techniques in wire with modeling and step by step instructions. We will then create our wire gesture. Once completed, we will mount their sculpture on to a recycled base; cardboard, tile laminate or wood are a few examples.

#### Resources:

- Contemporary African Art. com <https://www.contemporary-african-art.com/contemporary-african-recycled-art.html>
- Wire Sculpture Techniques <http://everyarteverychild.org/artmaking/visualarts/wiresculpture.html>
- Art you can Make at Home with Mrs. Alfaro and Ms. Paula <https://youtu.be/le7ALbpbRhw>
- Attached visual

#### Step by Step Instructions:

1. Introduce examples of art from the Contemporary African Art website. Explain how art can be made with found objects as well as traditional materials.
2. Share the "Wire Techniques" slide.
3. Pass out materials which will be consisting of 20 gauge garden wire, cardboard and any embellishment.
4. Have each student follow your modelling of a step by step experience in making a gesture out of wire. (Practice a couple of times before beginning.)
5. Once completed, students will have their sculpture glued to a base cardboard, laminate tile or block of wood.

#### Options you may want to include:

Spray paint, paint for the base and strips of fabric to hang from the sculpture.

This project should take one to two hours to complete.

Session 1: Introduction and basic skeleton

Session 2: Wrapping wire and embellishments



## Week Four: "Wigged Out"

Students will discover how human civilization had a wonder for wigs since antiquity! After watching the "Wigging Out" video, students will gather their ribbon, construction paper, plates and glue sticks to begin creating their own interpretation.

### Resources:

"Wigging Out" with Mrs. Alfaro and Ms. Paula <https://youtu.be/02r9yPl65QU>

Historical timeline: <https://www.elegantwigs.com/history-of-wigs.html>

<https://www.thevintagenews.com/2018/12/09/wig-18th-century/>

Quilling and Visual ideas: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/454441418619601566/>

<https://www.allfreepapercrafts.com/Paper-Quilling/Paper-Quilling-Scrolls-Practice-Printable-Worksheet>

### Step by step instruction:

1. Prep all kits will cull papers, individualized glue sticks and paper plates in a bag.
2. Introduce your class to the whole concept of wigs by showing the "Wigging Out" video listed above.
3. Reinforce the time line through discussing the information on the "Elegant Wigs" and Vintage News resource.
4. Demonstrate quilling technique with paper after reviewing quilling printable worksheet.
5. Distribute materials and have the students begin quilling with you step by step.
6. Have students begin gluing paper strips onto the paper plates.

**Although not necessary, teachers may set up low temp glue gun stations to reinforce gluing.**

This activity can be completed in one to 3 hours depending on how elaborate and detailed the wigs are.

*Using all white paper gives a very 18th century realistic interpretation of the powdered wig movement, while choosing bright colors creates a more whimsical costume outcome.*



## Week Five: Mexican "Color Wrapping"

Our final destination will take us to the country of Mexico. We will discuss the principles of design through becoming embraced with the vibrant color and patterns of specific works within Mexican yarn painting. Students will then collect their form, a cup, vase, recycled bottle, yarn and glue and begin to WRAP!

### Resources:

- Art Forms with Mrs. Alfaro <https://youtu.be/mmUByZelGa4>
- <https://theculturetrip.com/north-america/mexico/articles/this-mexican-artist-yarn-bombs-celebrities-and-its-amazing/>
- <https://moa.wfu.edu/2020/05/mexico-create-a-huichol-yarn-painting/>

### Step by step instruction:

1. Introduce the class to Huichol Art of Mexico by visiting the Museum of Anthropology website. After viewing traditional examples, introduce "Culture Trip's" article on Yarn bombs for contrast.
2. While passing out yarn, have students, watch the step by step video, "Art Forms."
4. Make sure students have the following materials prepared: yarn, glue and their own form.
5. Students will coat their form with an even amount of glue.
6. Students will wrap very slowly starting from the bottom of the form.
7. Students will have to rewrap if the yarn overlaps Encourage patience.
8. Have wipes accessible, expect sticky fingers.
9. After the completion of the wrapping, let the form dry for 24 hours.

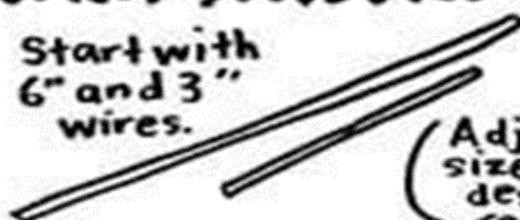


# WIRE SCULPTURE PERSON

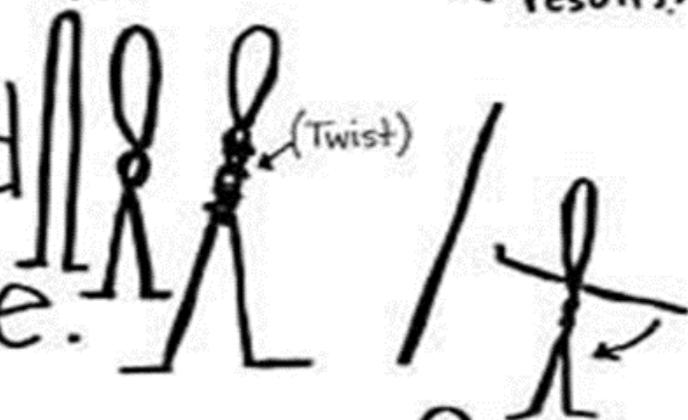
1. Cut wire.

Start with  
6" and 3"  
wires.

(Adjust  
size for  
desired  
results.)

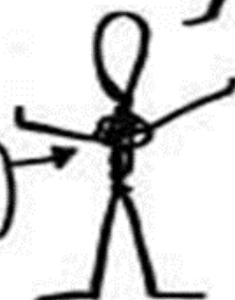


2. Bend and twist wire.



3. Add arms.

(Wrap  
around  
to secure)



4. Optional:

Add more  
volume and  
detail.



Shape figure as you wish.  
Three points touching  
the ground helps it to  
be free standing.

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Dollar Tree

Item:	Per Piece	How many Class of 25
Scissors	\$1.00	\$25.00
Yarn Assorted Case	\$1.00	\$25.00
Assorted Wire	\$1.00	\$25.00
Paper Plates	\$1.00	\$3.00
Glue	\$1.00	\$25.00
Clear Cups	\$1.00	\$2.00
Watercolor Palette	\$1.00	\$25.00
		\$1
		39.00

Optional materials needed:

Walmart

2 Glue Guns, \$5.00 each

Glue Sticks, \$6.00 each

Totaling: \$159.00 plus a trip to The Ocean Bank Center for recyclable objects.