

WELLBEING ACTIVITY



Positive and Negative Shape Collage

Lesson name	Positive and Negative Shape Collage
Duration	2 x 1-hour lessons
Suggested year levels	Level 1 - Secondary
Overview	In this lesson students explore shape, colour and space to create a collage using handmade papers exploring positive and negative space. Students will experiment with watercolour painting techniques to create handmade papers relating to colours found in their environment. They will then explore abstracted organic forms and draw and cut these shapes from their hand made papers before pasting down the negative space pieces on another sheet of paper to create a collage.
Curriculum links to wellbeing	<p>This lesson links to the Australian Curriculum’s Personal and Social Capability through assisting students in becoming creative and confident individuals who have a sense of self-worth in their art making. Students can work independently or collaboratively to create their collage artwork learning how to be self-disciplined or how to work with others. Students develop a self-reflective practice as they analyse aspects of their work such as colour and shape and how this relates to the natural environment around them.</p> <p>Personal and Social Capability (Version 8.4) The Australian Curriculum (Version 8.4)</p>
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thick cartridge or water colour paper • Water colour paints • Scissors • Glue

Activity

Step 1

Begin by exploring your environment and observing the different shapes and colours which surround you. This may be different depending on whether students are indoors, outdoors or in different spaces.

Step 2

Students draw inspiration from the colours around them and explore different water colour techniques to create handmade papers. Explore different colours and textures which can be created through exploring wet on wet techniques, dry brushing, dabbing with tissue paper and blending colours.

Step 3

Students allow their watercolour papers to dry. Once dry they turn the paper over and draw simplified or abstracted shapes inspired by their environment. Students repeat and explore different shapes on the range of handmade papers ensuring there is space between each drawing.

Step 4

Students cut around their shape in a square or rectangular shape. They then cut out their shapes from their paper aiming to cut their shape in a single line so that they have the positive and negative cut outs.

Step 5

Students arrange their negative space shapes on a piece of paper to find a composition which they like before pasting their pieces down. Students can also complete this process as a collaborative group activity by working on a large poster sheet of paper.

Step 6

Students can repeat this process using their positive space cut outs on another sheet of paper

Reflection

- How does colour link to your environment in your work?
- How would you describe the shapes in your work?
- How would you describe the space in your work?
- What watercolour techniques have you used?
- How would you describe positive and negative space?
- Did you create two collage works using positive and negative space? Which do you like the most and why?

Extension and differentiation

- Students can create one collage work focussing on either positive or negative space.
- Students can explore different materials to create their hand made papers such as pastels, pencils or markers.
- Students can create small or large-scale collages or multiple artworks focussing on different environments individually or collaboratively.