

Kim Aritonovich
Knox Learning Center
4-1-13

Subject: Japanese Zen Gardens
Grades: 9-12

1. Learning Objectives (HS Beginning)

- 2PE - Identify and describe the sources artists use for visual reference and to generate ideas for artworks.
- 3PE - Identify the relationships between community or cultural values and trends in visual art.
- 1PR – Demonstrate basic technical skills and craftsmanship with various art media when creating images from observation, memory and imagination.
- 4PR – Establish the appropriate levels of craftsmanship when completing artworks.
- 6RE – Identify various venues for viewing works of art.

1. Student Grouping

- Whole Group for instruction and topic conversation.
- After topic conversation students will break into tables with a table partner.

2. Methods

- Teacher directed for introduction and demonstration.
- Student Centered for project development.

1. Materials

- sand -popsicle sticks -clay - rocks - fork - Japanese symbols - paper
- pencil - bamboo - paint

1. Activities 3-4 day project (1 hour class periods)

Day 1-2

- Welcome students. (2 min)

- Inquiry questioning on what he students already know about zen gardens. Discuss this topic on why they are important etc. This lesson like the other two will be an extension from their history class but we would talk about why they were built, how they were built , what elements are used as well as how they are built to imitate the essences of nature. We will also talk about Kanji characters, ying and yang (which comes from Taoism which originated in China) , and Buddhism (only a little bit of history on this since they will get a full lecture in history class. I will just hit the highlights.) Images I will gather from images on the internet. (10-15 min)

- Explain and show an example of the zen sand gardens that they will be making. (3 min)

- Demonstrate how to make the base out of pop sickle sticks or clay (5 min)

- Pass out supplies. (2 min)

- Project development (30 min)

- Closing and wrap up. (students will clean up and put their supplies away. Then I will do a reminder of what they have learned.) (8 min)

Day 3-4

- Students will learn how to create Kanji that go along with zen gardens.
- Practice drawing the characters. (middle out)
- Once student feels comfortable with drawing them they will paint them on rocks and in and around their base to help decorate it.
- Once paint is dry on the base student will add sand inside to cover just the bottom. Add in other decoration including rocks and bamboo.

- Once finished take a fork to rake the sand to relax and calm their bodies.

References

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_rock_garden
- <http://www.stanford.edu/group/sjeaa/journal42/japan2.pdf>
- <http://learn.bowdoin.edu/japanesegardens/>
- <http://www.asianideas.com/zengardens.html>
- <http://www.wikihow.com/Create-a-Zen-Garden> - (of course on a small scale)

1. Contingency Plans

- Students will be given paper to continue practicing Japanese characters

2. Accommodation: Ability Level

- I will have a finished example for them to see.
- I will group the younger students with the older ones for extra help. (Unless behavior problems occur.)
- Multiple materials for the students to pick from that best suits them.

3. Accommodation: Differentiating Teaching

- Low end students are given tracers to use to create the symbols and are given one on one help.
- High end students like students are given instructions on how to draw their own characters without tracing
- Students also have table partners that they can ask for help and share ideas with.

4. Evaluation Data

- Rubric at the end of the lesson. (This will vary teacher to teacher depending on grading style)