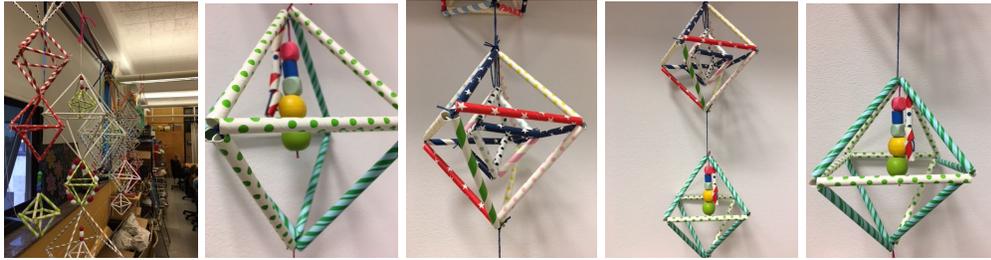


Lesson Plan: Finnish Himmeli Mobiles

Grade level: 4-12



Duration: 3-4 class periods

Media Type: paper straws, string, blunt needles

Subject Integration: Math

Objective: To create a Finnish himmeli mobile after being inspired by artist Peter Witrak.

Assessment:

Rubric:

4-Standards are exceeded

3-Standards are met

2-Standards may be met at a very low quality or with some exceptions

1-Standards are not met

0-

Vocabulary:

Visual Arts Elements/Principles:

color	shape	line	texture	balance	unity	proportion	form	value
space	contrast	emphasis	movement	pattern	rhythm			

Materials and Procedure:

Day 1: Present students with *Making It Up North* video snippet about musician / visual artist Peter Witrak.

<https://makingit.wdse.org/watch/peter-wittrak-creative-expression> (7:08)

Start discussion: “Where does Peter get his inspiration for his mobiles?” “What does he say about the shapes of his mobiles?” “How did Peter come to create his first mobiles?”

Now present information about Finnish mobiles called “himmeli”. Himmeli originate from the Swedish word for ‘sky’ or ‘heaven’, the himmeli are a traditional Finnish ornament or mobile decoration that is made of straws or reeds. (More information about himmeli below: see links)

Have discussion with students about using plastic straws vs. paper straws for this lesson. Using paper straws are much more ecologically sound. Share the importance of protecting the earth and the use of sustainable resources when creating art pieces.

Share pictures of himmeli examples. Discuss integration of math with the visual arts. Creating a himmeli is very “math minded”. Students start pencil sketches of himmeli mobiles. In small groups, students discuss design ideas of himmeli.

Day 2: Review introduction of himmeli. Share pictures of himmeli examples. Give students diagram of creating a simple himmeli (see below). Ask students to help pass out paper straws, blunt sewing needles, and string. Present basic steps to starting process of building a himmeli. Students who catch on to ideas quicker can help those who need more help. Peer teaching can be very effective. Students need 12 straws to create one basic himmeli shape. Differing sizes and colors of straws may be used. Depending on availability of materials, students may create many finished himmeli pieces to create one larger mobile. Use beads, yarn, etc. to further enhance finished himmeli. Have fun! Students all of all ages enjoy creating himmeli.

Day 3-4: Continue himmeli building. Hang finished himmeli in classroom for all to enjoy!

Resources:

<https://www.hemleva.com/himmeli-history>

<https://www.hemleva.com/journal/2016/1/28/the-history-of-himmeli>

<https://finland.fi/christmas/the-original-finnish-christmas-ornament/>

<https://vintagerevivals.com/how-to-make-a-basic-geometric-himmeli-ornament/>

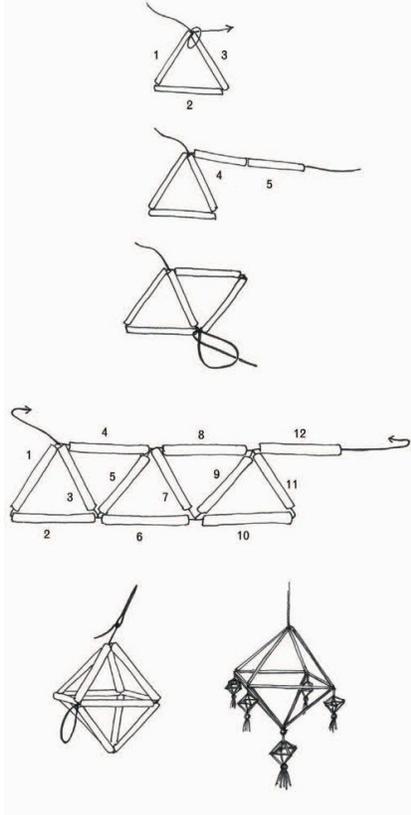
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fauVL4I4Bk> How to video (2:26)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLhNJVBLHm4> How to video (4:32)

Book about himmeli:

https://www.amazon.com/Inspirations-himmelis-Techniques-r%C3%A9alisations-pas/dp/2212673620/ref=sr_1_5?keywords=himmeli&qid=1558191375&s=gateway&sr=8-5

Printable diagram:



National Standards for Visual Arts:

VA:Cr2.2.6a: Explain environmental implications of conservation, care, and clean-up of art materials, tools, and equipment

VA:Re.7.1.7a: Explain how the method of display, the location, and the experience of an artwork influence how it is perceived and valued

VA:Cn10.1.4a: Create works of art that reflect community cultural traditions

Sample Math Standards:

3.13: Set up and solve proportions using real life applications

5.18: Identify corresponding sides & angles in similar figures

5.19: Apply scale factor to find dimensions