

Core Art Unit Organizer  
5th Grade  
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## Meso-American Art

State Standards:

**1. Students recognize and use the visual arts as a form of communication.**

Students will observe how meso-american people used art to communicate their religious beliefs.

**2. Students know and apply elements of art, principles of design, and sensory and expressive features of visual arts.**

Students will observe how meso-americans used the elements and principles of art in their work.

Students will practice using the elements and principles of art in their own abstract design.

**3. Students know and apply visual arts materials, tools, techniques, and processes.**

Students will use oil pastel to create an abstract design.

**4. Students relate the visual arts to various historical and cultural traditions.**

Students will examine the meso-american cultures influence on their artwork.

**5. Students analyze and evaluate the characteristics, merits, and meanings of works of art.**

Students will discuss the meanings behind meso-american artwork.

Core Knowledge Standards:

Maya, Inca, and Aztec Civilizations

The Mayas

Ancient Mayas lived in what is now southern Mexico and parts of Central America; their descendant still live there today.

Accomplishment as architects and artisans: pyramids and temples

Development of a system of hieroglyphic writing

Knowledge of astronomy and mathematics; development of a 365-day calendar; early use of concept of zero

The Aztecs

A warrior culture, at its height in the 1400s and early 1500s, the Aztec empire covered much of what is now central Mexico.

The island city of Tenochtitlan: aqueducts, massive temples, etc.

Moctezuma (also spelled Montezuma)

Ruler priests; practice of human sacrifice

The Inca

Ruled an empire stretching along the Pacific coast of South America

Built great cities (Machu Picchu, Cuzco) high in the Andes, connected by  
a system of roads

Previous Unit:

This is the first unit of the year.

Next unit:

Age of Exploration

Resources:

Prints and digital images showing examples of meso-american art.

Skills:

Students will be able to:

Recall basic information about the Mayas, Aztecs, and Inca.

Incorporate one color scheme into their abstract design based on the sun or the moon.

Complete a one paragraph writing assignment.

Assessments:

Periodic oral questioning.

Evaluation of student created abstract design.

One paragraph writing assignment.

Habits of Mind:

1. Communication Skills

Discuss works of art.

-Discuss works of art.

-Express ideas and feelings through art.

-Describe and explain works of art.

-Exhibit works of art.

-Use the visual arts as a form of communication.

## 2. Elements of Art and Principles of Design

- Describe how, interpret and compare.
- Perceive art in terms of the elements and principles of art.
- Apply the elements and principles of art.
- Interpret and express feelings.
- Understand expressive features of the visual arts.

## 3. Manipulation and Observation- Process

- Observe and understand how.
- Use tools.
- Follow step by step.
- Exercise safety.

## 4. Values and Attitudes

- Reason why.
- Understand art in terms of art history.
- Question, investigate, and observe.
- Perceive art in diverse cultures.
- Relate art to history and geography.
- Know that, locate, and find.

## 5. Critical Response Skills- Art Criticism and Aesthetics

- Ask "How do you know."
- Form useful questions, consider, and respond.
- Practice critical thinking.
- Question fairness under different conditions.
- Form and express a personal opinion.
- Inspect works of art.