

Art Docent
Illuminated Manuscripts
Fourth Grade

Materials Needed:

Drawing or Watercolor Paper
Pencils
Watercolor paints
Gold Tempera paint
Brushes
Water cups
Colored pencils

Elements Covered:

Color
Line
Shape

Principles Included:

Scale/Proportion
Emphasis

Presentation: The slideshow is on Illuminated Manuscripts and the Book of Kells

Lesson: Hand out the paper, pencils and watercolors first.

1. Tell the students they will start by drawing the first letter of their name. Think of something important to you, or something that interests you. The sample shows art supplies. They can lightly sketch this with and around the letter.
2. Next they can use the watercolor paint or the colored pencils to color their design. Watercolor will take a little bit of time to dry but they can also embellish with the colored pencil when it is dry.
3. Squeeze some of the gold tempera onto a palette and let them paint in their letter with the gold. This will need some time to dry and should be done last.

Discussion:

Talk about the importance of hand lettering. What did it mean to have a “book” in the Middle Ages? It took a very long time to reproduce something like the Bible so it was VERY valuable. How valuable are books today?

Wrap Up: Have the children help with clean up- use the wet wipes or paper towels to clean the table and wash the watercolor and tempera brushes, clean the palettes and put away supplies.

Samples:

