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Prompt: digital art, Adobe Photoshop, Mandala, personal expression, center as the beginning,
what makes you unique, define culture, celebrating differences

Class Announcement

Discover the fascinating world of Digital Art and unleash your creativity with Adobe Photoshop! Join us for an exciting exploration of Mandala art and personal expression. In this class, you will learn how to create stunning Mandala designs using various tools and techniques in Photoshop. Explore the concept of the center as the beginning of your artwork and how it reflects your unique style and personality. We will also delve into the meaning of culture and how it shapes our identities. Get ready to express yourself and discover the artist within you! See you in class!



Resources:

1. "The Rise of Artificial Intelligence in Digital Art" - This article explores how AI is transforming the world of digital art, with examples of AI-generated artworks and the impact it has on personal expression. (Link: <https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-rise-artificial-intelligence-digital-art>)
2. "Adobe Photoshop for Beginners: A Comprehensive Guide" - This tutorial provides a step-by-step introduction to Adobe Photoshop, including basic tools and techniques that can be used to create digital art, such as mandalas. (Link: <https://helpx.adobe.com/photoshop/tutorials.html>)
3. "Mandala Art: A Symbolic Representation of Self and Universe" - This article explains the significance of mandalas in various cultures, including their use as a tool for personal expression and as a visual representation of the center as the beginning. (Link: <https://www.artranked.com/blog/mandala-art/>)
4. "What Makes You Unique: Embracing Individuality" - This resource helps students understand the concept of individuality and explores ways to embrace their unique qualities, such as personal interests, talents, and perspectives. (Link: <https://www.kidshealth.org/en/kids/unique.html>)
5. "What is Culture? Definition and Examples" - This article provides a clear definition of culture and explores different aspects of culture, such as language, traditions, and beliefs, to help students understand the diverse world around them. (Link: <https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-culture-1435355>)

Lesson Plan: Digital Art and Personal Expression through Mandala Design

Grade Level: Middle School (Students Grade 6-8) Subject: Art and Technology

Objectives (Scaled to Bloom's Taxonomy):

1. Knowledge/Remembering:

- Define and explain the concept of digital art.
- Identify the basic tools and functions of Adobe Photoshop.
- Define and explain the concept of a mandala.
- Understand the symbolism of the center as the beginning in mandala design.
- Define and explain the concept of personal expression in art.

2. Comprehension/Understanding:

- Explain the process of creating digital art using Adobe Photoshop.
- Discuss the significance of a mandala as a tool for personal expression.
- Analyze different cultural representations of mandalas.

3. Application/Applying:

- Create a digital mandala using Adobe Photoshop, incorporating personal elements and symbols.
- Modify and manipulate various Photoshop tools to achieve desired effects.
- Experiment with color, shape, and texture to enhance the visual impact of the mandala design.

4. Analysis/Analyzing:

- Compare and contrast different mandala designs from various cultures.
- Analyze the visual elements and principles of design used in mandalas.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of personal expression in the student's own mandala design.

5. Synthesis/Evaluating:

- Create an original digital artwork using mandala design principles to express a specific concept or emotion.
- Critique and provide constructive feedback on peers' mandala designs.
- Reflect on the personal growth and learning achieved through the process of creating digital art.

Teaching Strategies:

1. Direct Instruction: Provide step-by-step guidance on using Adobe Photoshop tools and functions, as well as the process of creating a mandala design.

2. Collaborative Learning: Encourage students to work in small groups or pairs to discuss and share ideas, provide feedback, and collaborate on the creative process.
3. Hands-On Practice: Provide ample time for students to explore Adobe Photoshop and experiment with different design techniques, allowing for individualized learning and discovery.

Cue Sets:

1. Visual Cue: Display various examples of digital mandalas created using Adobe Photoshop to spark student interest and showcase the possibilities of personal expression.
2. Question Cue: Ask open-ended questions like "What symbols or elements would you include in your mandala to represent your unique personality or culture?"
3. Discussion Cue: Initiate a classroom discussion on the significance of the center as the beginning in mandala design and how it relates to personal expression and cultural symbolism.

Activities:

1. Guided Instruction: Demonstrate the step-by-step process of creating a basic mandala design using Adobe Photoshop, highlighting key tools and techniques.
2. Group Collaboration: Divide students into small groups to brainstorm and sketch out their ideas for a personal mandala design, incorporating cultural symbolism and personal elements.
3. Independent Practice: Provide time for students to work individually on their digital mandalas, exploring different Photoshop tools and techniques while incorporating their personal expression.

Assignment Ideas:

1. Personal Mandala Design: Create a digital mandala using Adobe Photoshop that represents your unique personality, interests, and cultural background. Include a written explanation of the symbols and elements used.
2. Cultural Mandala Comparison: Research and create a comparative analysis of mandala designs from different cultures, highlighting their similarities and differences in symbolism and visual elements.
3. Reflective Journal: Write a reflective journal entry discussing the process of creating your digital mandala, the challenges faced, and how it helped express your personal identity.

Encouraging Real-World Skill Use from Students:

1. Presentation Skills: Have students present their mandala designs to the class, explaining their creative choices and the meanings behind their symbols.

2. Digital Literacy: Encourage students to explore online resources and tutorials beyond the classroom to further develop their digital art skills.
3. Collaboration and Feedback: Foster a culture of constructive critique and feedback among students, helping them develop communication and collaboration skills necessary in the real world.

Closure Questions:

1. How did creating a digital mandala help you express your unique personality and cultural background?
2. What challenges did you face during the process of creating your mandala, and how did you overcome them?
3. How did your understanding of culture and personal expression evolve through this project?
4. Which Photoshop tools or techniques did you find most useful in creating your mandala design?
5. How will you apply the skills and concepts learned in this project to future creative endeavors?

Unit Plan

Lesson 1: Introduction to Digital Art and Adobe Photoshop Objective: To understand the basics of digital art and how to use Adobe Photoshop. Task: Students will create a simple digital artwork using Adobe Photoshop, experimenting with different tools and features. Closure question: What are some basic tools and features in Adobe Photoshop that you used to create your artwork?

Lesson 2: Exploring the Mandala Objective: To explore the concept of Mandala and its significance in art. Task: In teams, students will research and create a presentation on the history and cultural significance of mandalas in different cultures. Closure question: How does the concept of mandala differ across different cultures and what are some common elements?

Lesson 3: Personal Expression through Mandalas Objective: To explore personal expression through the creation of mandalas. Task: In teams, students will create their own mandalas, incorporating personal symbols and colors that represent their unique identity. Closure question: How did you incorporate your personal symbols and colors into your mandala to express your unique identity?

Lesson 4: Center as the Beginning Objective: To understand the concept of center as the beginning in mandalas. Task: In teams, students will analyze different mandalas and identify the central point as the starting point for the design. They will then create their own mandalas, focusing on the central point as the beginning. Closure question: How did focusing on the central point as the beginning influence your mandala design?

Lesson 5: What Makes You Unique Objective: To reflect on individual uniqueness and explore ways to express it visually. Task: Students will create a collage using digital images and symbols that represent what makes them unique as individuals. Closure question: How did you visually represent your uniqueness in your collage?

Lesson 6: Understanding Culture Objective: To define and understand the concept of culture. Task: In teams, students will research and create a presentation defining culture and exploring different aspects of culture, such as traditions, language, and art. Closure question: How does culture influence the way we express ourselves through art?

Lesson 7: Cultural Symbols in Art Objective: To explore the use of cultural symbols in art. Task: In teams, students will analyze artworks from different cultures and identify the cultural symbols used. They will then create their own artwork using cultural symbols. Closure question: How did you use cultural symbols in your artwork to convey a specific message or meaning?

Lesson 8: Cultural Identity through Art Objective: To explore the connection between art and cultural identity. Task: Students will create a digital artwork that represents their cultural identity, incorporating symbols, colors, and elements that are significant to their culture. Closure question: How did you incorporate symbols, colors, and elements from your culture into your artwork to represent your cultural identity?

Lesson 9: Cultural Exchange through Art Objective: To understand the concept of cultural exchange through art. Task: In teams, students will research and create a presentation on how art can be used as a tool for cultural exchange and understanding between different cultures. Closure question: How can art promote cultural exchange and understanding between different cultures?

Lesson 10: Final Project Showcase Objective: To showcase and celebrate the students' learning and creativity throughout the unit. Task: Students will present their final projects to the class, explaining the inspiration behind their artwork and the cultural elements incorporated. Closure question: Reflecting on your journey throughout this unit, how has your understanding of digital art, personal expression, and culture evolved?

Teacher Script

Title: The Power of Digital Art: Exploring Mandala, Personal Expression, and Cultural Identity

[Opening]

Teacher: Good morning, class! Today, we are going to dive into the exciting world of digital art and explore how Adobe Photoshop can be used to create beautiful mandalas, while also expressing our unique personalities and cultural identities. Are you all ready?

Check-in Question 1: What are we going to explore today?

[Slide 1: Introduction to Digital Art]

Teacher: Let's start by understanding what digital art is. Digital art refers to any artistic creation made using digital technology, such as computers, tablets, or smartphones. It allows artists to explore various techniques, colors, and styles in a virtual environment.

Check-in Question 2: How can digital art be created?

[Slide 2: Introduction to Adobe Photoshop]

Teacher: One of the most popular tools used in digital art is Adobe Photoshop. This software provides a powerful platform for artists to manipulate images, create illustrations, and experiment with various digital art techniques. Today, we will focus on how to create mandalas using Photoshop.

Check-in Question 3: What software are we going to use for creating digital art?

[Slide 3: Understanding Mandalas]

Teacher: Now, let's explore the concept of mandalas. Mandalas are geometric patterns that represent the universe in many spiritual traditions. They often have a center point and radiating designs, symbolizing the idea that everything starts from a central source.

Check-in Question 4: What do mandalas represent?

[Slide 4: Personal Expression]

Teacher: One of the beautiful aspects of digital art is the ability to express our unique personalities. When creating mandalas, we can incorporate personal symbols, colors, and patterns that reflect who we are as individuals. This allows us to infuse our art with our own identity and emotions.

Check-in Question 5: How can we make our digital art reflect our individuality?

[Slide 5: Cultural Identity]

Teacher: Culture plays a significant role in shaping who we are. Our cultural backgrounds influence our thoughts, beliefs, and artistic styles. By incorporating elements from our own culture, we can create digital art that celebrates our heritage, showcases our traditions, and promotes intercultural understanding.

Check-in Question 6: How can cultural identity be expressed through digital art?

[Closing]

Teacher: Today, we explored the world of digital art, specifically focusing on creating mandalas using Adobe Photoshop. We also discussed how personal expression and cultural identity can be incorporated into our artwork. Remember, your art is a reflection of who you are and the world around you.

Key Takeaways:

1. Digital art is created using digital technology like computers and tablets.
2. Adobe Photoshop is a popular software used for digital art creation.
3. Mandalas are geometric patterns representing the universe.
4. Personal expression allows us to infuse our digital art with our unique personality.
5. Cultural identity can be expressed through incorporating elements from our own culture.

Questions for Students:

1. What is digital art, and how is it created?
2. Name one software commonly used for digital art creation.
3. What do mandalas represent, and why do they often have a center point?
4. How can personal expression be incorporated into digital art?
5. How can cultural identity be expressed through digital art?

Evidence Statement

Bloom's Taxonomy is a framework that categorizes learning objectives based on the levels of cognitive skills. Here is a list aligned with Bloom's Taxonomy to demonstrate mastery of the topic "digital art, Adobe Photoshop, Mandala, personal expression, center as the beginning, what makes you unique, define culture" for middle school students (grades 6-8):

Remembering:

- Identify the different tools and features available in Adobe Photoshop.
- Recall the steps to create a mandala using digital art techniques.
- List the elements that make a digital artwork unique.

Understanding:

- Explain the concept of personal expression in digital art.
- Describe how the center as the beginning concept is incorporated in mandala art.
- Discuss the importance of individuality in creating digital artwork.

Applying:

- Create a mandala using Adobe Photoshop, incorporating personal elements to express uniqueness.
- Use Adobe Photoshop tools to modify and enhance an existing digital artwork.
- Apply the concept of center as the beginning to create a visually appealing composition.

Analyzing:

- Compare and contrast different styles and techniques used in digital art.

- Analyze the symbolism and cultural significance of mandalas in different cultures.
- Evaluate the impact of personal expression in digital art on the viewer.

Evaluating:

- Assess the effectiveness of using Adobe Photoshop as a digital art creation tool.
- Critique and provide constructive feedback on peers' digital artworks.
- Judge the cultural relevance and appropriateness of including certain elements in a digital artwork.

Creating:

- Design and create a digital artwork using Adobe Photoshop that reflects personal expression and cultural influences.
- Develop a series of mandalas that showcase different cultural interpretations.
- Construct a digital portfolio showcasing a variety of unique digital art creations.

Remember, this list is just a guide, and you can modify or add to it based on the specific needs and abilities of your students.

Lesson Template: Exploring Personal Expression through Digital Art and Adobe Photoshop: The Mandala Approach

Introduction:

1. Hook: Discover the captivating world of digital art and unleash your creativity with Adobe Photoshop!
2. Background: In this educational guide, we will explore the art of creating Mandala designs using Photoshop as a powerful tool for personal expression.
3. Thesis: By understanding the significance of the center as the beginning and embracing what makes you unique, we will delve into the cultural aspects that shape our artistic expressions.

I. Understanding Mandalas:

1. Definition: Define what a Mandala is and its historical significance in various cultures.
2. Symbolism: Explore the symbolic meanings associated with Mandalas, such as harmony, balance, and spirituality.
3. Cultural Significance: Discuss how different cultures utilize Mandalas as a form of personal expression and spiritual practice.

II. Adobe Photoshop and Digital Art:

1. Introduction to Adobe Photoshop: Provide a brief overview of Adobe Photoshop and its features.

2. Digital Art and Its Impact: Explain the significance of digital art in today's creative landscape.
3. Photoshop Tools: Explore essential Photoshop tools and techniques specifically relevant to creating Mandalas.

III. Creating Your Unique Mandala:

1. Finding Inspiration: Discuss different sources of inspiration for Mandala designs, such as nature, geometry, and cultural motifs.
2. Designing the Center: Explain the importance of the center in Mandala creation, symbolizing the beginning and self-reflection.
3. Embracing Uniqueness: Encourage readers to embrace their individuality and incorporate personal elements into their Mandala designs.

IV. Personal Expression and Cultural Influence:

1. Defining Culture: Provide a comprehensive definition of culture and its significance in shaping personal expression.
2. Cultural Elements in Mandalas: Explore how different cultural influences can be incorporated into Mandala designs.
3. Cultural Appropriation: Address the importance of respecting cultural boundaries and avoiding appropriation while creating Mandalas.

Conclusion:

1. Recap: Summarize the key points discussed throughout the guide, emphasizing the importance of personal expression and cultural sensitivity.
2. Encouragement: Inspire readers to explore their unique artistic voices and use digital art and Adobe Photoshop as tools for self-expression.
3. Final Thoughts: Highlight the transformative power of creating Mandalas and encourage readers to share their creations and experiences with others.

Anchor Chart: Exploring Digital Art and Personal Expression

Introduction:

- Digital art refers to artwork created using digital tools, such as Adobe Photoshop.
- In this anchor chart, we will explore the concept of personal expression through digital art and focus on creating mandalas as a form of self-expression.

1. Adobe Photoshop:

- Adobe Photoshop is a software that allows artists to create and edit digital images.
- It provides various tools and features to manipulate and enhance artwork.

2. Mandala:
 - A mandala is a geometric pattern that represents the universe in Hindu and Buddhist traditions.
 - It can be a powerful tool for personal expression and self-reflection.
 - Mandalas can be created using Adobe Photoshop or other digital art software.
3. Center as the Beginning:
 - In mandalas, the center represents the starting point of creation.
 - It symbolizes the core of who we are and what makes us unique.
 - For this project, start your mandalas from the center and expand outward.
4. What Makes You Unique:
 - What does the concept of individuality and uniqueness mean to you?
 - Consider your interests, passions, and personality traits that make you unique.
 - These elements should be incorporated into mandalas as symbols or patterns.
5. Personal Expression:
 - Personal expression refers to the ability to express oneself through various mediums, including art.
 - What is the importance of self-expression, and how it allows us to communicate our thoughts, emotions, and experiences?
 - Encourage students to use their mandalas as a form of personal expression.
6. Defining Culture:
 - Culture refers to the beliefs, customs, and traditions of a particular group of people.
 - What is the importance of the diversity of cultures around the world?
 - Incorporate cultural elements or symbols into your mandalas to celebrate your own culture and to learn about others.

Conclusion:

- Digital art and Adobe Photoshop provide tools for personal expression and creativity.
- Creating mandalas allows students to explore their unique qualities and express themselves visually.
- Through their artwork, students can celebrate their own culture and appreciate the diversity of others.

SEL: Celebrating Unique Expressions: Exploring Digital Art and Personal Identity

Objective: Students will understand the concept of personal expression and cultural diversity through the creation of a digital mandala using Adobe Photoshop.

Materials:

- Computers or tablets with Adobe Photoshop installed
- Internet access

- Art supplies (optional)

Lesson:

Introduction (2 minutes):

1. Begin the lesson by asking students to sit silently and focus on their breath for a few moments. This will help center their minds and create a calm atmosphere for the activity.

Activity (6 minutes): 2. Explain to students that they will be creating a digital mandala using Adobe Photoshop to explore their personal expression and celebrate their unique identities. 3. Introduce the concept of a mandala as a circular design that represents unity, balance, and harmony in various cultures around the world. 4. Provide a brief tutorial on how to use Adobe Photoshop to create a digital mandala. You can demonstrate steps such as selecting shapes, using different tools, and applying colors. 5. Encourage students to express themselves through their mandalas by incorporating elements that represent their interests, hobbies, or cultural background. Remind them that there is no right or wrong way to create a mandala. 6. Allow students to work independently or in pairs to create their digital mandalas. Circulate around the room to provide assistance and guidance as needed.

Closure (2 minutes): 7. Gather students together and ask them to save their mandalas or take a screenshot of their work. 8. Lead a brief discussion using the following closure questions:

- What elements did you include in your mandala that reflect your personal identity?
- How did creating a digital mandala make you feel? Did it allow you to express yourself in a unique way?
- How can we celebrate and appreciate the diverse cultures and identities represented in our classroom and community?

Extension:

- Encourage students to share their mandalas with the class or create a digital gallery to showcase their unique creations.
- Organize a class discussion or presentation where students can talk about the cultural elements they incorporated into their mandalas and what they learned from the activity.

Note: If computers or Adobe Photoshop are not available, you can modify the activity using traditional art supplies such as paper, colored pencils, markers, or paints. Students can create their mandalas using these materials and discuss the same closure questions at the end.

Team Building - Quick Challenge: Mandala Creation Relay

Objective: To promote teamwork, creativity, and quick decision-making skills while creating a collaborative digital mandala artwork.

Materials Needed:

- Computers with Adobe Photoshop or any digital art software
- Drawing tablets (optional, but recommended)
- Timer or stopwatch

Instructions:

1. Divide the students into teams of 2-4 members.
2. Provide each team with a computer and access to Adobe Photoshop or any digital art software. If available, give each team a drawing tablet for more precise drawing.
3. Explain the challenge: Each team will collaboratively create a digital mandala artwork within 5 minutes. The mandala should reflect the theme of "what makes you unique" and celebrate cultural differences.
4. Start the timer or stopwatch, and let the challenge begin!
5. The first team member starts by creating the center of the mandala. They have 30 seconds to create a small design or symbol that represents themselves and their uniqueness.
6. After 30 seconds, the first team member passes the computer or drawing tablet to the next team member, who then has 30 seconds to build upon the center design and add their own unique element to the mandala.
7. This process continues until the 5 minutes are up or when each team member has had a chance to contribute to the mandala.
8. Once the time is up, have each team present their mandala to the class. Ask them to explain their design choices and how they incorporated the theme.
9. Encourage the class to celebrate each team's creativity and unique contributions, emphasizing the importance of diversity and cultural differences.
10. Facilitate a short discussion about teamwork, personal expression, and the significance of celebrating differences in creating a vibrant and inclusive community.

Note: Remind students to be respectful of each other's ideas and to work together as a team to create something visually appealing and meaningful.

Ice Breaker: "Digital Mandala - Celebrating Our Unique Styles"

Objective: To create a fun and interactive icebreaker activity that allows teachers to get to know their students' unique styles and personal expressions through digital art.

Materials:

- Computers or tablets with Adobe Photoshop installed
- Drawing tablets (optional)
- Internet access (for image references)

Instructions:

1. Introduction (2 minutes):

- Begin by explaining the concept of personal expression through digital art, and how each student has a unique style that reflects their personality and interests.
- Discuss the importance of celebrating differences and fostering a diverse classroom culture.

2. Mandala Exploration (3 minutes):

- Introduce the concept of a mandala as a symbolic representation of one's inner self and creativity.
- Show examples of different mandalas from various cultures and discuss the significance of the center as the beginning point.

3. Digital Mandala Creation (5 minutes):

- Divide students into pairs or small groups.
- Provide each group with a computer or tablet with Adobe Photoshop installed.
- Explain that each student will create their own digital mandala using Photoshop.
- Encourage them to incorporate elements that represent their unique styles and personal expressions.
- If available, provide drawing tablets for a more hands-on experience.

4. Sharing and Discussion (5 minutes):

- Once the students have completed their digital mandalas, have each group present their creations to the class.
- Ask each student to briefly explain the elements they incorporated and why they chose them.
- Encourage classmates to appreciate and celebrate the uniqueness of each mandala and the personal expressions they represent.
- Lead a discussion on the importance of diversity and how it enriches our classroom culture.

5. Closing (1 minute):

- Thank the students for sharing their creative mandalas.
- Emphasize the importance of embracing and celebrating differences in our classroom community.

Note: The time allocated for each section may vary depending on the students' familiarity with Adobe Photoshop and their artistic skills.