

Hillandale Elementary Art Lesson

3rd through 5th grade

from Mrs. Senger-Knotts

Week of May 4th –May 8th



El Anatsui, "Lines that Link Humanity" at the North Carolina Museum of Art

Hi All!

Listen to the description that the curator of the museum gives us about this artwork.

You can find this at the NCMA website. First paragraph you will see red letters saying “audio description”. Click and listen while looking at the image. The curator, Felicia Ingram, is very detailed about what she sees. When you describe something you need to think that your telling someone about it that can’t see it, like if you were on the phone.

There are a lot of art words in this description. Have you picked them out? Do you know what they mean? I am going to give you the definitions to the words. You may want to listen again to the curator’s description. Did you already know these words? I know you have heard them in art class.

ART WORDS (Terms) Definitions:

Irregular shape = a shape with an outline that is not crisp; like a geometric shape but has turns and bends in it

Depth = the thickness of an object (the third dimension (3-D) when measuring an object)

A-symmetrical = a shape with one side not the same as the other; a painting can be like this

Tint = a lighter color (a color that white is added to)

Abstract shapes = when looking at an object like a tree but drawing it simpler or adding something to the tree image, like different colors

Vertical stripes = stripes that go up and down

Horizontal = shapes or lines that go across the page, sideways

Hope this helps you to understand the curator’s description.

Assignment #1: Look at a picture on your wall at home. Can you **describe** it to me using these terms? Write me a description and send it to me. Here is my email: beth_sengerknotts@dpsnc.net

Notice, the curator has come to the conclusion that this artwork is like a quilt or a weaving.

All the little pieces of metal bottle caps are actually sewn together with wires.

Did you notice, how the artwork is hanging from the ceiling. It is wrinkled, like a blanket. The artist wanted it this way. Why do you think that is?

Assignment #2: Looking at El Anatsui's "Lines that Link Humanity" again. Can you give me your opinion on what you see? Does it feel like a blanket to you? Or, something else. I'd like to know. What come to your mind when you look at El Anatsui's artwork? This is called an **"analysis"** (an opinion about something you have studied). What about the title of the artwork? Do you think that is a clue to what the artist is trying to talk about?

On the North Carolina Museum of Art website, below the picture of El Anatsui's "Lines that Link Humanity" is a video of Jake Shimabukuro playing an instrument.

Assignment #3:

Relax and listen to the artist play "The Greatest Day" on NCMA OFFSTAGE with Jake Shimabukuro. (This is on the NCMA website)

Assignment #4:

Now I have another description and interpretation of El Anatsui's "Lines that Link Humanity" I want you to listen to.

Notice in the description the curators are talking about where the artist comes from and the cultural traditions of that place. Artists are not alone in the world. We, like other people, are affected by where we live and our families. It is very important to understand other people and cultures and why they think and interpret things differently than you and me. One of the reasons why this is because everyone does not think the same thoughts as you do. Everyone has different experiences that gives them a different view of the world. This is how we can open our brains to new ideas and ways of looking at things. www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zatyfXy_D0



Did you hear the curators talk about the Kente cloth? They talked about how it is a community activity to make a Kente cloth. The same thing is happening in El Anatsui's artwork.

Kente cloth is a West African tradition. The most prominent culture that makes Kente cloth is the **Ashanti people** from the **Akan land**. Other cultures that have adapted this way of making cloth are the countries of **Ghana** and **Gambia**. Where are these countries and cultures? Find them on the map. What kind of weather and what kind of landscape are in these countries? Could this affect the way they live?

The Kente cloth is made with silk and cotton thread that is hand dyed many colors. The cloth is weaved on a small “**strap**” **loom** like the one we will

make to do our Kente cloth. Then all the straps are sewn together to make a cape like garment that is worn with a strap belt. These are garments saved to be worn for special ceremonies. Traditionally, they were only for the Ashanti king to wear.

Assignment #5: Making a Strap Loom

Materials needed:

Thick cardboard (like a pizza box)

Thin cardboard (like a cereal box)

Ruler

Color pencils or crayons

Pencil

Lined notebook paper or graph paper

Yarn (3 different colors)

Scissors

A comb

Step 1:

Cut a piece of thick cardboard no smaller than 4 inches by 9 inches (4"x9")

Step 2:

With a ruler measure one fourth inch (1/4") and make a mark all across the short end of your cardboard. Put the ruler at the other end of the cardboard and do the same.

Step 3:

With your scissors cut about 1/4" inch into the cardboard at each mark you have made on the top and bottom of your loom.

Step 4:

With one color yarn/string tie the end to the first notch you cut at the left hand corner of your loom.

Step 5:

How to put the "warp" threat on (the thread going up and down on the loom). Loop the yarn/string into the first notch at the bottom of the loom and bring it forward around that notch and between the next notch to have the yarn/string come out to the front of the loom (facing you). Do this to every notch going up and down the loom. When you come to the end make another knot and cut the string about 2 inches down from the knot. This video might help you understand.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=mw_tZCLeEY

Step 6:

Make a "shuttle" to hold your thread. The "shuttle" is about an inch in thickness and about 2" long rectangle cut from the thin cardboard. Cut a triangle notch on the center of each end and then cut triangles off each corner of the 4 corners of the rectangle. Wrap one color yarn about as long as your arm around the v-shapes in your rectangle. (This will hold enough yarn to make about 5 rows of weaving = "weft" rows going across (horizontally). Cut another piece of yarn and wrap it around the shuttle after you are done weaving your first 5 rows. YOU NEED TO HAVE AT

LEAST 10 ROWS OF ONE COLOR TO START YOUR WEAVING SO IT WILL NOT FALL APART WHEN YOU TAKE IT OFF THE LOOM.

Step 7:

START WEAVING! Weaving is an A/B pattern going in and out around each vertical line of yarn (warp). Make sure you leave at least 2" of yarn hanging out from the side where you start. On the second row, weave that 2" end into the middle of the weaving. Watch this video on different techniques you can do with your weaving.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vy4u3_otP4

Step 8:

I know you are excited to start BUT ***FIRST make yourself a pattern.*** Using **grid** paper or make your own color in with two different colors using color pencils or crayons to make a **pattern** like the Kente cloth is made. See my picture. Count off how many warp strings you have on your **loom**. That is how many squares across you should have on your grid. Remember to count 10 rows up on your grid and make all that one color so the weaving doesn't fall apart. My example will give you a diamond shape. Add more lines of weft to make it bigger.

Step 9: Optional

You can **interlock** your two colors. This makes a stronger weaving. Watch the video on how to do this. It's not hard!

www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-MqfxBrSp8

Step 10:

When you have woven to about an inch and a half from the top of your weaving then do all the same color until about an inch from the top. Make sure you are pushing down on your **weft** yarn with a comb or your

fingers so that they are really tight in the weaving. This is what keeps the weaving together. Start to take the **weft** loops off the top of the cardboard. Every two loop tie in a knot together. This will keep your weaving from coming unraveled. Hope you make something your like. Have fun!