

Gourd Painting - Grades 4 & 5

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Objectives:

The students will communicate ideas about self, family, school, and community, using sensory knowledge and life experiences.

TEKS §117.14. Fine Arts (4.1)(A)

TEKS §117.17. Fine Arts (5.1)(A)

The students will learn and select appropriate vocabulary to discuss the use of art elements such as color, texture, form, line, space and value, and art principles such as emphasis, pattern, rhythm, balance, proportion and unity.

TEKS §117.14. Fine Arts (4.1)(B)

TEKS §117.17. Fine Arts (5.1)(B)

The students will express ideas through original artworks, using a variety of media and at an appropriate skill level. The students are expected to: integrate a variety of ideas about self, life events, family, and community in original artworks; design original artworks; and invent ways to produce artworks and to explore photographic imagery, using a variety of art media and materials.

TEKS §117.14. Fine Arts (4.2) (A)(B)

TEKS §117.17. Fine Arts (5.2)(A)(B)

The students will identify simple main ideas expressed in art and the role of art in American society.

TEKS §117.14. Fine Arts (4.3)(A)

The students will make informed judgments about personal artworks and the artworks of others.

TEKS §117.14. Fine Arts (4.4)(A)

TEKS §117.17. Fine Arts (5.4)(A)(B)

The Lesson: Students will be introduced to the Mexican and pioneer craft of gourd painting. The *[Elements of Art](#)* and *[Principles of Design](#)* will be reinforced while creating original works of art.

1. The teacher will begin the lesson by showing the students a selection of gourds found on the Internet.

<http://www.americangourdsociety.org/FAQ/types/chart2.html>

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2. The teacher will show the students how to identify a dried gourd (they are usually brown with spots of white and black molds). The students will be shown examples of gourds that have been turned into finished works of art.

<http://entertainment.webshots.com/album/71205224EmCpmj>

<http://home-and-garden.webshots.com/album/50068758SBCsEj>

<http://www.jragourdart.com/bowls.asp>

3. The teacher will explain that the class is going to create a bowl from a gourd, and that they will be learning how to prepare the gourd as well as how to paint the designs.
4. Students will create their bowls using step-by-step [instructions](#).

Focus Activity Discussion:

Once the gourd-bowls have been completed, have the students set out their work and allow time for the class to view each other's work. The teacher will select one bowl and ask the students to identify the elements of art used in the painting, and then select a second bowl and ask the students to identify the principles of design. The teacher will ask the students if they like their own bowls and to explain why or why not. The teacher will ask the students why they chose the colors they used, what the hardest part of the project was, and what the students plan to do with their bowls.

Extensions:

This project can be expanded into a yearly project by having the students plant the gourd seeds in spring. If the school allows, have the students plant the gourds on school property. In the following fall, the students can return to harvest the gourds.

The teacher may have the students do large pencil drawings of the different types of gourds. Students should select one gourd drawing and use colored pencils to decorate the drawing with a repeating pattern. The students may cut out the gourds and decorate the other side. The teacher can laminate the gourds and hang them from the ceiling.

Additional/Supplemental Material:**Discussion:**

Gourds have been utilized as tools, dishware, instruments, baskets and other practical items for centuries throughout the world. Gourds grow on vines, and come in many different sizes and shapes. As they grow, gourds resemble large green squash. In the fall, as the plant dies, the gourds dry out on the vine and can be harvested. Dried gourds resemble wood and allow for the surface to be carved, drilled, sawed, burned, painted, and decorated. Today gourds are still used for making practical, everyday tools. Additionally, modern artists from many cultures across the globe use gourds in their artwork.

Gourd Painting: Step-by-step Instructions

Technique Discussion: Cleaning the gourd can be a dirty job. The students will use a cleaning mixture made of bleach and water. When the gourd is cut, it might smell. This is normal. The students will be using acrylic paints which will stain, so a smock or a set of old clothes is recommended.

Activity:

Supplies: Dried gourds, a handsaw, acrylic paint, acrylic varnish, paintbrushes (some fine), a separate brush for acrylic varnish, water, rags, bleach, sponges, tape, scissors, pencils or fine tip black marker, [Flower Pattern](#), [Sun Pattern](#)

Time: 2 - 40 minute classes with a 3rd class of 15 minutes to acrylic varnish work

Note to Instructor: Be prepared to use the saw for the students. The needed size of the patterns depends on the size of the gourds. The image can be reduced in size to fit.

Instructor Prep work: To save time, the gourds can be soaked in large buckets filled with bleach water. Soak the gourds for about ½ hour and set out to dry.

Part 1: Preparing the gourd (optional for students)

1. Gently clean the gourd with a bleach water solution. Allow to dry. Use a fine sand paper to sand the surface, removing any visible blemishes.
2. Using a handsaw or sharp knife, cut the gourd to create a bowl shape. Wearing a dust mask is advisable.
3. Remove the seeds and pulp from the inside of the gourd. Gently scrap the inside with a spoon, and then sand the interior and edges smooth.
4. Optional: Apply a wood sealer, such as Thompson's, to both the inside and outside of the gourd. Allow a week to dry. This should be done prior to painting.

Part 2: Painting the gourd

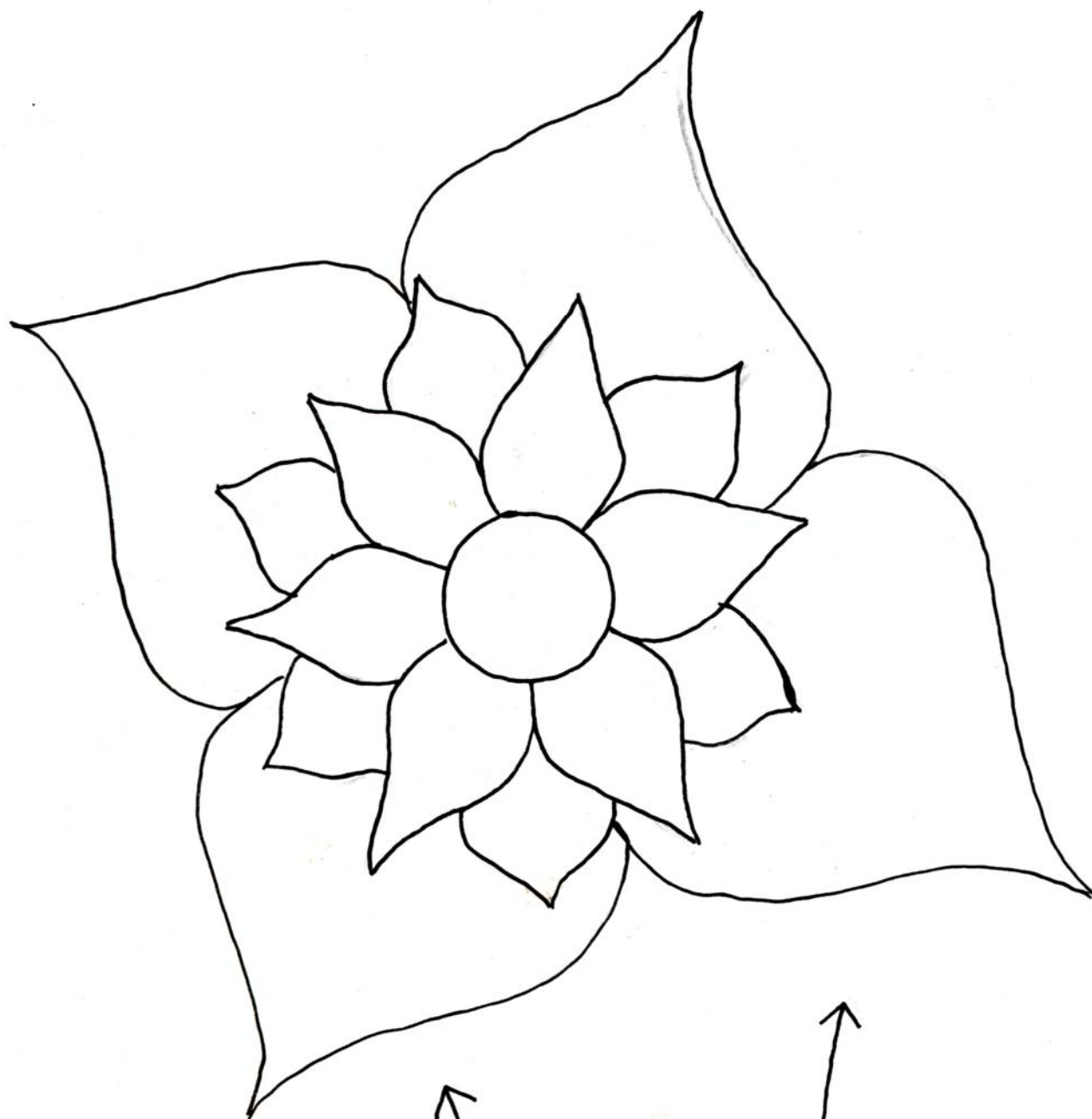
1. Select a pattern and cut out the outlined pieces.

[Flower Pattern](#): continue by cutting out the center and petals. With tape place the center on the bottom of the bowl and trace. Place the petals around the center and trace. Doing this allows the flower to fit into the curve of the bowl.

[Sun Pattern](#): Cut out the sun pattern. There are "slit" lines that can be cut to fit the sun into the different size bowls. Once the slits are cut the pattern can be overlapped and taped. Refer to *Sun Pattern* for detailed instructions.

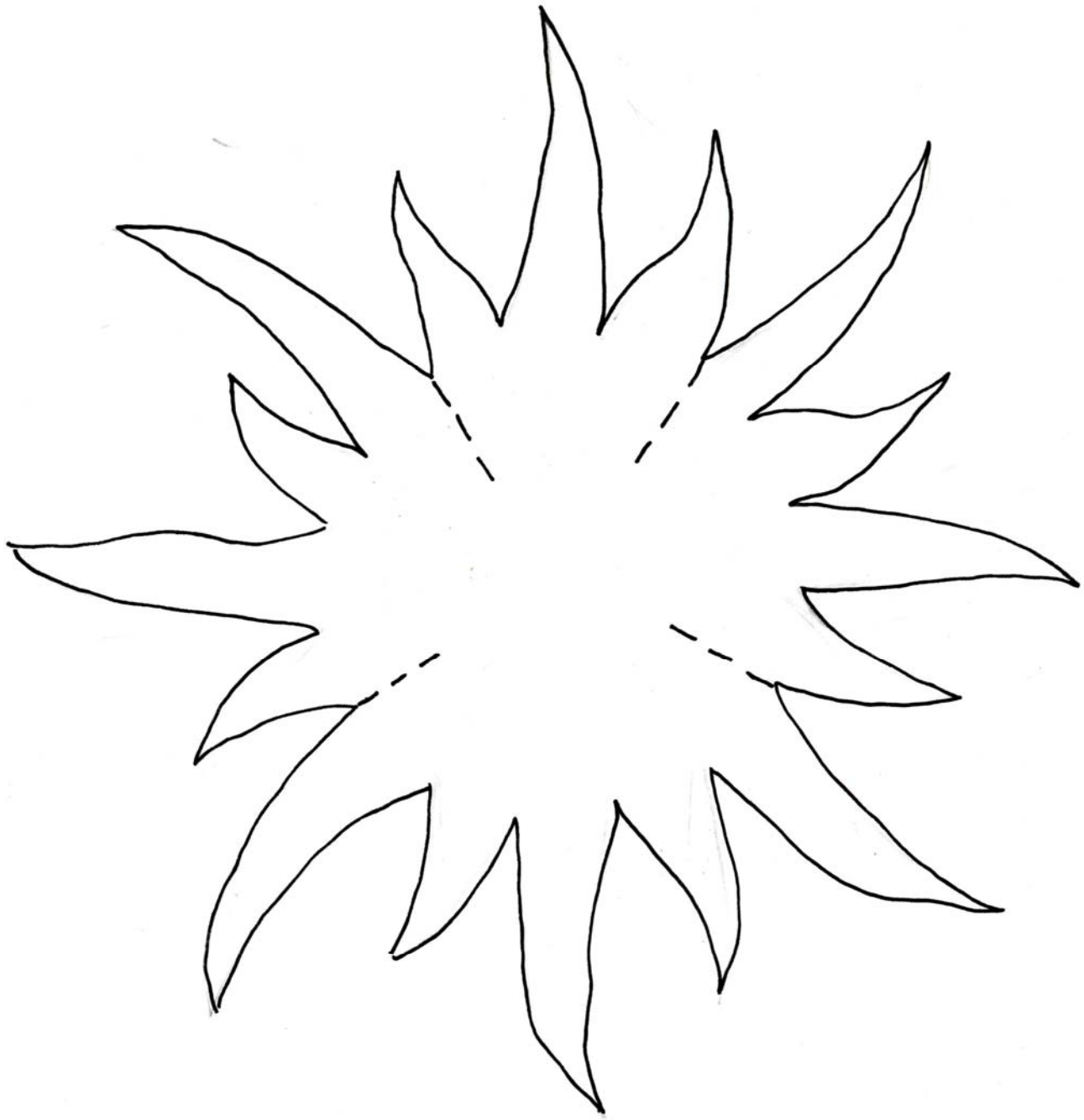
2. Trace patterns onto the gourd, inside, outside or both, with a pencil or fine tipped marker.
3. Paint the outline black with a fine brush, then allow time to dry.
4. Fill in the painting with a variety of color choices, then allow time to dry
5. Apply varnish all over the gourd.
6. Allow to dry for one week.

Flower Pattern



leaves are optional

Sun Pattern



Cut on dotted lines