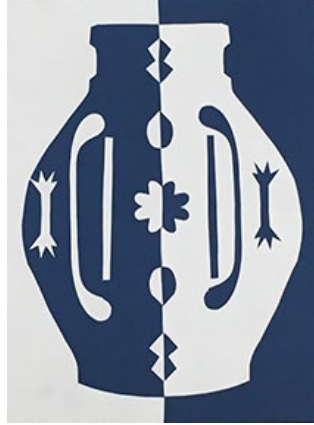




MORSE
MUSEUM

BOLD BLUES AND WHITES



GRADES/LEVEL:

3rd grade–8th grade

TIME REQUIRED:

1 class period

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

- learn about the history and manufacture of blue and white porcelain.
- use the elements of art and principles of design to create an original artwork.
- use procedural and analytical thinking to create artwork that communicates their ideas.

MATERIALS:

- 9” x 12” sheets of blue and white construction paper
- Vase template (see end of lesson)
- Graphite drawing pencils
- White glue or glue sticks
- Scissors
- Plate, baggie, or bowl

VOCABULARY:

Asymmetry: the lack or absence of symmetry; an image that is not the same on both sides but still maintains artistic balance.

Balance: the comfortable arrangement of objects, colors, texture, and space in a work of art.

Color: the reflection or absorption of light from a given surface.

Contrast: differences in values, colors, textures, and shapes that create visual excitement and add interest.

Negative Space: space that is “empty.”

Pattern: using an element or elements of art (line; shape/form; space/perspective; texture; value; color) in a planned way.

Positive Space: space that is “filled.”

Symmetry: a well-proportioned, well-balanced image that is the same on both sides.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

Chinese blue and white porcelain was a source of inspiration for European and American artists and designers in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Artists like James Abbott McNeill Whistler (1834–1903) and Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848–1933) admired the ornamentation of these Chinese ceramics and incorporated them into some of their most famous interiors.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Find and examine examples of blue and white porcelain. Discuss the imagery, symbolism, animals, plants, people, patterns, and instances of symmetry that can be seen.
- 2) Give each student one sheet of white construction paper, one sheet of blue construction paper, one pair of scissors, a pencil, and a bottle of white glue or a glue stick. Have students fold the white piece of construction paper in half lengthwise.
- 3) Keeping the white construction paper folded in half, have students use the pencil to draw the outline of half of a vase on the white construction paper. Make sure the outline starts on the folded edge of the white paper. Encourage students to use as much of the space as they can. A vase template is provided at the end of the lesson if students need assistance creating an outline; the template and white paper should be folded lengthwise so that only half of the vase is traced.
- 4) Still keeping the white paper folded in half, have students cut out their vase shape along the drawn pencil line. Have students save the piece of scrap white paper. Set this piece aside in a safe place so it does not get lost (paper plate, plastic bag, paper bowl, etc.).
- 5) Fold the white paper vase in half again so that the vase is in quarters. Keeping the paper folded, have students carefully cut out different shapes along the two folded edges. Remind students to be careful not to cut too far across the paper. Continue saving all the scrap pieces of white paper and putting them in the safe place. When students are done cutting, unfold the vase.
- 6) Have students fold their piece of blue construction paper in half lengthwise, and then open it up and lay it flat. Have students gather their scraps of paper from their safe place. Find the biggest scrap piece first. This should be the piece that remained after completing step 4. Cut in half along the line of symmetry, and glue one half of this scrap on one side of the blue paper matching the cut edge of the scrap paper with the fold in the blue construction paper.
- 7) Have students cut their white paper vase in half along the vertical crease (line of symmetry) in the white paper. Line up the cut edge of the white paper vase with the fold in the center of the blue paper and glue the white vase down. It should now look like there is a whole vase, with one side blue and the other blue and white.
- 8) Have students unfold and look at the rest of their scrap pieces. Like a puzzle, have students fit white scraps into the cut-out shapes in the white vase. Note: not all scraps will be used.
- 9) Working carefully, have students flip the white scrap pieces over like a mirror image into the blue space, so that both spaces look symmetrical, but one is blue on white and the other is white on blue. Cut scrap pieces in half along the line of symmetry.
- 10) Once students are satisfied with the placement of their pieces, have them glue them in place. Allow glue to dry thoroughly.

ASSESSMENT:

Students should:

- be able to visually identify examples of positive and negative space in an artwork.
- be able to visually identify examples of symmetry and asymmetry in an artwork.
- understand the blue and white porcelain trend as it relates to nineteenth-century America and Europe.

BLUES AND WHITES VASE TEMPLATE

