

LESSON PLAN

ART PROJECT: Self-Portrait with Objects

INSTRUCTIONS

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Pencil and Eraser
- Blank Piece of Paper (any size/any light color)
- 3-5 Objects that you want to include in your drawing
- Tablecloth or fabric if available

ART PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Artists will think about their lives in terms of objects and draw a self-portrait showing objects that represent them. These can be items they use everyday, things that are special to them or objects that symbolize their interests, hobbies, jobs, or relationships to others.

- **Self-portrait** is a representation of an artist that is drawn, painted, photographed, or sculpted by that artist.
- **Symbolism** is the practice or art of using an object or a word to represent an abstract idea.
- **Composition** is the placement or arrangement of visual elements.

PROMPT QUESTIONS:

- When you think about your life in terms of objects, what comes to mind and why? Are the objects part of your everyday life? Are there items that hold special meaning or memories for you? Are the objects very expensive items that many people would value or are they simple things that are meaningful to you alone?
- Are there objects that symbolize parts of your life that you can include in your self-portrait? (Symbols of jobs, hobbies, family ties, cultures, nationalities, etc.).

ART MAKING PROCESS:

Step 1:

- Think about your life and come up with 3-5 objects you have that you can include in your self-portrait. Gather the objects and arrange them in front of your drawing area so you can be looking at them while you draw. Consider how you are arranging them so you will have an artful composition. (If you have a tablecloth or fabric and some boxes of varying size you can cover the boxes with the fabric and place your objects at different heights.)

Step 2:

- Decide if you will use your paper horizontally or vertically. Using your pencil, lightly begin to sketch the shapes of your objects and the surface they are resting on, onto your paper. Once you are satisfied with the placement of all your objects on your paper, begin drawing more details in each object and more lines that help the viewer understand the space your objects are in.

Step 3:

LESSON PLAN

- When the setting and objects are all drawn, begin using your pencil to add shading to some of the areas within your drawing. Depending on how much pressure you apply while using your pencil you can have a wide range of shadows from light to dark. These will help give your drawing depth and a sense of space.

Step 4:

- Look at your self-portrait as a whole composition and decide if you have any more details or shadows that you want to add. Use your eraser to lighten or completely erase any areas that you want to be clear.

Step 5:

- When you are finished, sign your name at the bottom.

POST PROMPT QUESTIONS:

- Consider what someone who doesn't know you would think after seeing your self portrait with objects. Would they understand what you are trying to convey? Would they be intrigued to find out more? Would they learn something about you that they didn't know?
- What would someone else's self-portrait with objects look like? What items might they include? If they had an object that was the same as one of your objects would it mean exactly the same thing to them? Or could it be completely different?

EXTRA FUN:

- Do two self-portraits with objects on two different days. Would the objects be the same or would you choose different things based on your feelings each day?
- Try to create a portrait of someone else you know by thinking of objects that remind you of the person. Give it to them when you're done.

LESSON PLAN

EXAMPLES:

