

Brand your Banner!

Design, draw, paint, and wave your flag high!

A flag can signify an individual, a small group, or a whole nation. A heraldic flag was historically used for personal identification, and can be found in many different shapes and sizes, depending on the rank of the individual.

No matter the size or shape, all flags have one thing in common—they must be distinctly recognizable from a distance and, unlike a drawing or painting, should be recognizable while fluttering in motion.

The art and practice of designing flags is known as vexillography. In this lesson each student will become a vexillologist, and will design and create their very own heraldic flag. The colors and symbols used should carry personal significance for each student. Monogram rubbing plates offer an easy method of adding initials with distinction. No two flags will be alike!

Richeson Shiva Paintstiks become permanent and washable when heat-sealed on fabric, making them the perfect media for this lesson. They are unlike conventional oil colors; they dry to the touch in 24 hours, have no unpleasant odors or fumes and are non-toxic and hypoallergenic! They are sold individually in a variety of colors, as well as an economical student pack.

GRADES 3-12

Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

Preparation

1. For best results and a smooth application of color, any creases in the bandana should be ironed.
2. Cut cardboard, chipboard, or foam core to 23" x 23".
3. Show a variety of historical flags, and discuss the imagery used and its purpose.
4. Have students make preliminary sketches for the flag design.



Materials

[Richeson Shiva Student Grade Paintstik Oils](#), asst colors, package of 12 (00402-1019); share four packs across class

[Roylco Rubbing Plate Sets](#), 4 1/2" x 6" Monogram, set of 28 (61112-1100); share one set across class

[Natural Cotton Bandana](#), 21" x 21" (63982-1001); one per student

[Blick Studio Tracing Paper Roll](#), White, 24" x 50 yds, 8 lb (10535-1024); share one roll across class

[Midwest Products Birch Dowels](#), 1/4"Dia x 36", package of 30 (33303-8437); one dowel rod per student

[Pom Pon Assortment](#), pack of 300 (60950-0000); share one package across class

[Aleene's Clear Gel Tacky Glue](#), 4 oz (23884-1204); share one bottle among 5 students

[Iron](#)

Optional Materials

[Silk Scarf](#), 22" x 22" (63000-1022)

[Unbleached Muslin](#), 45" x 1 yd (63987-1001)

[Roylco Rubbing Plate Sets](#), assorted (61112-)

Process

1. Shiva Paintstiks are self-sealing. Before using, peel off the thin film of dried paint.
2. Before drawing directly onto the fabric, stretch it to ensure it won't pull or wrinkle under the Paintstik. To do this, place the fabric on top of a piece of cardboard or chipboard that has at least a 1" border. Tape one side of the fabric to the working surface. Pull the opposite side taught, so that no wrinkles are present. Do the same for the remaining two sides.
3. Reference draft sketches and draw a design directly onto the fabric. Avoid excessive use of the colorless blender as it will result in an oil stain 'halo' effect when heat set.
4. Heat set with a dry iron (no steam). Place the fabric between two sheets of tracing paper, and iron. If color seeps onto the tracing paper, replace it with a new sheet before ironing a new piece so as not to transfer color.
5. To display, each finished piece can be glued to a dowel rod. Simply run a bead of glue from the top of the dowel rod, stopping 21" down, or the length of the flag. Press the left-hand edge of the fabric into the glue. If needed, use binder clips or clothespins to secure until dry.

Process for using rubbing plates

1. Use masking tape to secure the rubbing plate to a piece of cardboard or chipboard. Place the muslin over the plate and secure with tape, pulling gently at opposite sides to ensure the fabric is taut.
2. Gently rub the Paintstik over the rubbing plate and fabric until the full image or pattern appears.

Options

- Instead of using dowel rods, display all of the flags together, like a quilt, using safety pins to secure the corners together.

National Core Arts Standards -Visual Arts

Creating

Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Responding

Anchor Standard 8: Perceive and analyze artistic work.

Connecting

Anchor Standard 10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.



Step 1: Stretch fabric over rubbing plate, onto the working surface.



Step 2: Rub the Paintstik gently over rubbing plate.



Step 3: Heat set with iron.

