

Lesson Plan: Plaid Design

by Elias Jacobs

General Goal: To encourage design, particularly in kids who feel they “cannot draw”, examining plaid, exercising simple drawing skills and encouraging creativity using color and line.

Objectives: Students will become aware of plaid and it’s origins, discuss awareness of plaid in the real world, experiment with combining colors, using varying line thickness, spacing and patterns to create unique designs, finding success without complex drawing skill, and understanding how cloth is made, how plaid is used in fashion and it’s other potential uses in design.

Intended Audience: 5th–8th graders, adaptable to K–12.

Standards: Per NYC *Blueprints for Visual Arts*: Art making, art history/works of art, artists, art terms, art in the community, careers in the arts.

Per NYS Standards: Standard 1 – art making, Standard 3 – criticism and connections, Standard 4 – art in culture and history.

Hook: “Who is wearing plaid today?” “Where do we see plaid?” Students will be given the chance to connect to their existing awareness of plaid, discuss where it is seen and ponder it’s origins and use by today’s biggest fashion designers.

Teaching: Following introduction, students will be given paper to divide into boxes and begin filling with colored lines to create plaid swatches. Teacher will give students time to experiment and then step-by-step guidance in the use of thin/thick lines, adding open space, grouping lines, use of color combinations (warm, cool, primary, etc.) and patterns. As students complete their experimental squares, teacher will give out ‘clothing’ worksheet for students to use plaid in .

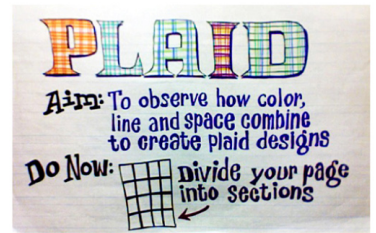
Closure: Students will see how easy plaid is to do yet how involved it can get, also how it can be adapted to other uses such as backgrounds, fill-ins for letters or patterns for clothed figures.

Guided Practice: Students will complete sheets with plaid squares to be examined and discussed in-progress, explaining why curved or diagonal lines are not used. Sheets are to be collected and graded at the end of the period.

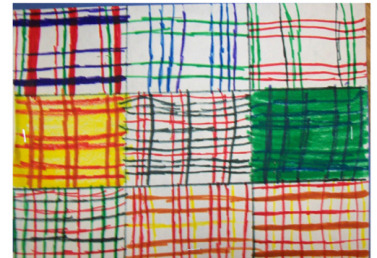
Independent Practice: Second handout will give students opportunity to decorate three figure drawings with plaid designs after practice and confidence building.

Adaptations: Students are able to choose elements from many different examples shown, keying into varying personal preference. Advanced learners will be instructed in the use of plaid design as a background or fill, for example inside or outside of bubble letters. Higher grades will be show contouring slight curves for realism in fashion drawing.

Materials: Chart examples, blank paper, colored pencils and markers, pre-printed handout.



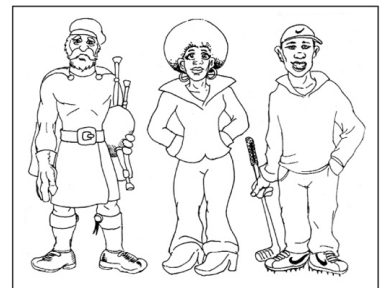
do now chart



sample student work



teacher's chart with examples



handout



sample student work