

Felt Making for High School ART

Lesson Title: Felt making and the Felted Vessel

Rationale: Addressing N.V.A.S. #1, #4, #5, and #6

Objectives: Students will learn the history and origins of felt making along with the process and how to apply it to a 3 dimensional vessel

1. Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes. The teacher will demonstrate the project and then they will apply these techniques.
4. Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures. Felting is the most ancient technique of making fabric and originates from Mongolia. We will discuss the Mongolian culture and how felting ties to their lives.
5. Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others. We will share with each other our final projects.
6. Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines. We will discuss felting and the craft business.

Procedures:

Square felt sampler

1. Student will choose 2 colors of wool to make a small square sampler of their larger project.
2. Student will watch a demo of square flat felt making.
3. They will overlap 4 layers of their pile of wool alternating directions of the wool.
4. Students will wet the wool with soapy water and gently rub the square of wool.
5. After 5 minutes of gentle rubbing student will scoop the wool and beat it on the table for 50 times.
6. Then they will roll the square on the door mat alternating sides. Roll in every direction. The wool will shrink in the direction it is rolled the most.
7. After the square is felted, students will wash the square out and lay it flat to dry.

Final Vessel project

1. Students will choose 2 colors of wool to make a 3 dimensional vessel or pouch.
2. Students will choose a pattern to layer their wool upon.
3. On the front side of the pattern lay the wool facing one direction and then the opposite until you have used all of the front pile of wool. Lay the wool with one inch of wool extending the edge of the pattern.
4. Wet the front layers and pat the wool down. Make sure all the layers are saturated with soapy water.
5. Wrap the wool around the pattern tightly and do steps 3 and 4 on the back of the pattern. You should have even amounts of wool on the front and back.
6. After it is completely wrapped roll the wool form on the mat until it shrinks around the pattern.
7. After it has shrunk around the pattern cut the wool form out of the pattern and removes the pattern from the wool pouch/vessel.
8. Take the felt form and beat it by throwing it 50 times on the table.
9. Then roll the form until completion on the mat.
10. Rinse the form out and take home to dry

Materials for Felting:

5-10 lbs. Australian Merino wool or any other wool

Joy dish soap

Rubber Door mats

Heavy Canvas for the patterns

Needle and threads (optional)

Spray or squirt bottles

Scissors

Video on Wool processing

This project was done with 150 students. Art 1 does a smaller project with less options. Art 3 and IB Art design their own projects and were given more wool and a larger scale to work on.