

Title**Kindness Hexagon Project Lesson Plan****Grade Level**

Secondary (7-12)

Duration

3-4 sessions — 50 minutes (This could be more sessions or homework or independent study assignment.)

Media Type

Drawing, Painting, Mixed Media, or Collage

Cross-Curriculum Subject [optional]

Language Arts

Objectives

1. Students will consider the idea of kindness and the many forms that an act of kindness can take.
2. Students will consider the visual form of a hexagon and how it can connect to other hexagons in a two-dimensional or three-dimensional way.
3. Students will work collaboratively to develop an idea in a small group.
4. Students will select materials (choice) to create an interdependent hexagon (challenge is determined by the project) or express an idea about kindness (the theme is predetermined, but the image and expressive use of media is determined by the student.)

Assessment [optional]

Describe how to assess the achievement of objectives.

Materials

Sessions 1 & 2:

Paper and writing/drawing materials

Magazines

Scissors

Envelopes for storing collected materials

Session 3:

Hexagon Forms cut from a variety of forms appropriate for drawing, collaging or painting

Suggested Station Materials:

Drawing Station: pencils, colored pencils, pens, markers

Collaging Station: magazines, decorative paper, black paper, Yes Paste or Nori Paste, various kinds of gel mediums or Modge Podge, liquid acrylics

Mixed Media / Painting Station: colored inks, acrylic paints, watercolors, alcohol markers (Sharpies), Gesso, Isopropyl Rubbing Alcohol, brushes

Procedure

Session 1:

1. Brainstorm on the meaning of the word kindness. What does kindness mean to you? Can you list 10 examples of kindness acts that you have recently experienced? Consider acts of kindness bestowed upon you or that you have performed for someone else.
2. Share an internet resource where students might be able to find ideas about kindness. The Kindness Cloud could be used here: <https://kindnesscloud.org>

3. For the remainder of class, students should collect images of kindness from magazines available in the classroom or websites. Students should collect a minimum of 10 kindness images. Students should also brainstorm at least 10 written ideas about the meaning of kindness. Students continue this as a homework assignment if needed or desired.

Session 2:

1. Show the YouTube Kindness Poem to start class.
2. Curate your collection of images and ideas. Consider classifying groups of ideas into themes. Consider prioritizing the images and ideas.
3. In small groups of 2 – 4 students, share your curated gallery of concepts. At this point, students can discuss what ideas they like, make suggestions, critique, trade images and ideas to embellish each other's ideas.
4. Teacher will introduce the concept of hexagon interdependence. Depending upon the time available, this could be an elaborate presentation of past Hexagon exhibits or just a brief overview from the Hexagon website: https://hexagonproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/SM_Overview-of-2022-Theme-PPTwithPoem.pdf

Session 3:

1. Pass out a hexagon template to use as the base for the assignment. Set up three stations for designing a hexagon: Collage, Drawing, Mixed Media & Painting. At each station, provide seating for 5 – 10 students to share materials (the number will vary depending upon the number of students in the class). Provide 2 or 3 different instruction steps at each station for different processes or techniques. Instruction sheets should be brief and easy to follow. The idea is to provide independence without too much frustration or too many rules. Students do not need to use the instruction sheets and can mix and match techniques.
2. If students do not complete their hexagon, the teacher could extend the lesson another day, allow students to finish their work outside of class, or save hexagon to be completed in the future when students have some 'down time' between projects.

[Optional but encouraged]

Discussion Questions

Introduction of Assignment — Session 1

What does kindness mean to you?

List 6 or more examples of kindness acts that you have recently experienced.

List 6 or more examples of kindness you performed for someone else.

Developing an Idea — Sessions 2 & 3

How can you visually express an idea about kindness?

How can you grab the attention of a viewer with your ideas about kindness? How can you engage the viewer?

What role does beauty play in a work about kindness? Does your image have to be beautiful to be meaningful?

How and where do artists find inspiration?

How does an artist develop their voice in an assignment like this?

Resources

- Hexagon Website: <https://hexagonproject.org>
- Hexagon Project PDF: https://hexagonproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/SM_Overview-of-2022-Theme-PPTwithPoem.pdf
- PA Kindness Poem Project: <https://pahamanities.org/project/pa-kindness-poem-project/>
- The Kindness Cloud: <https://kindnesscloud.org/>
- Greater Good Science Center: <https://ggsc.berkeley.edu>
- Hexagon Template https://hexagonproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/TEMPLATE_generic.pdf

Follow-up Activities

- Consider holding a critique when all students have completed their hexagon and the hexagons are on display. The teacher could ask students to select a meaningful work and explain why they selected that

work. Sticky note critiques where each student gets two sticky notes to place on different hexagons, they find most effective/meaningful could be used as an alternative. VTS also has some interesting strategies for encouraging students to examine closely and talk about works of art.

- It is hoped that images of finished hexagons will be uploaded to Artsonia.com* in a project titled Hexagon Project 2022 before the June 30 deadline. As a result, our students will see themselves as part of a more KIND and civil global community - and, hopefully, spread the call to ACTION farther and wider!
- Create a follow-up hexagon activity about the personal experience of performing an act of kindness. Create additional hexagons – mounted on larger gold-colored hexagons – to form an installation in the school or community. The hexagons, of course, can be added onto and grow - as they interconnect.

National Core Arts Standards

1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
 - a. Use multiple approaches to begin creative endeavors.
 - b. Artists and designers shape artistic investigations, following or breaking with traditions in pursuit of creative artmaking goals.
2. Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
 - a. Artists and designers balance experimentation and safety, freedom and responsibility while developing and creating artworks.
3. Refine and complete artistic work.

*Outline taken from the Artsonia Lesson Plan format at <https://www.artsonia.com/teachers/ideas/lesson-plans/edit.asp?sid=690DCDFBBBF64376AD084C22D8249BB4>