



I Am An Artist!

Behavioral Objectives:

Students will be able to

1. gather information from listening to music
2. identify a variety of art media
3. compare two different types of art processes
4. tell a story through their own artistic expression
5. evaluate their own and the work of others

Teacher Prep:

1. Listen to the **Ballad of the Unknown Artist** on the **Awesome Artists** CD.
2. Read Unknown Artist Background for Teachers
3. Gather all materials
4. Think about children's ideas. When presented with a statue of a horse and asked what it is, children will say "a horse". Help them to think in categories such as statue, painting, decoration, fabric etc.
5. Set up the art material station

Materials:

basket, "gold" statue, stained glass item, postcard with painting, ceramic cup or mug, painted egg, Kente cloth, tin box, quilt or other small objects of art; paint, clay, paint brushes, markers, newsprint, plastic cutting knives, popsicle sticks, crayons paper, ribbons and other materials to make art; **Awesome Artists** CD

Focus:

1. Have students sit in a circle (on the carpet or on chairs). In the middle of the circle have a variety of art objects made from different materials (media). Keep these objects covered until you are ready to play the song *Ballad of the Unknown Artist*.
2. Tell students that today you will be solving a mystery! Under the blanket, you have some clues that will help you solve the mystery of "Who Is An Artist?"
3. Tell them that you also have a song to listen to that will help them solve the mystery. They will have to listen really carefully. While they are listening, you will take the cover off the things under the blanket. Their job is to hear which things under the blanket are mentioned in the song.
4. Play the *Ballad of the Unknown Artist* for the students. As the music starts, take the quilt off the objects, leaving the quilt next to them.

Explore:

1. After the children have listened to the song ask if they can match objects that were in the song with objects on the carpet.
2. Hold up each object and ask if they know what it is. Pass the objects around so children can touch them and see them close up.
3. Make a T chart with the left column heading "Object" and the right column heading "Material". Ask the children to name each object and what material they think the object is made of. Record this and keep posted for later use.

Think:

1. Ask children if they know the name of the group that all these objects belong in? (Art)
2. Tell children they are very close to solving the mystery of "Who Is An Artist"! Ask them "Who do you think made these objects of art?" (Artists!) Do we know their names? (No) Could they have been made by a mother, a father, a grandmother, a child? (Yes!) Anyone can be an artist. An artist is a person who tells us something without using words. They can tell stories or send us messages or just show us something beautiful by making something!
3. Ask children if they can be artists? Of course they can. Tell them that everyone will get a chance to be an artist today!

Do:

1. Show children a variety of art media such as paint, markers, clay, fabric, tissue paper, etc. Tell them that they will be able to pick the type of material they use to make their own object of art.
2. Tell children to put their heads down on their desk and close their eyes. Ask them to think about whether they want to tell a story, send a message to someone or just make something they think is beautiful.
3. Have students take a few minutes to think about the material they want to use and what they think they want to make with it that will communicate their idea. Ask them to picture the object in their head.
4. Send up one group at a time to the Art Material Station to gather the items they need for their work of art. Make sure you have enough of everything so no one is disappointed with their materials.
5. Tell children they will now get to make their own art. They only have one rule. The art can be no bigger than their two hands spread out. Show children two hands side by side and one on top of the other. Let children create their work of art. While children are creating, play the Ballad of the Unknown Artist again. Ask students not to put

their name on their work. Just like the artists in the song, they will be “Unknown” for now.

Evaluate:

1. When children have completed their art, have them put their heads down again and close their eyes. While they are doing this, mix up all the pieces of art so that no one has their own on their desk.
2. Tell children to open their eyes and to take a look at the art object on their desk. They should not touch the work of art...only look. Go around the room and have everyone say something that they like about the piece on their desk. When the first round is finished, mix up the objects again and do another round of appreciation of the unknown art pieces. (You can do this as many times as you choose.)
3. Have one person at a time claim their piece of art and as they do, have everyone give them a round of applause. Do this until everyone is recognized for their artistic efforts. You can play the Ballad of the Unknown Artist quietly in the background.
4. Ask students, “ Who can be an artist?” “What are some kinds of art that artists can make?” “What are some materials that artists can use?” Remind students of the fun they had doing the art work today and how they can do art at home too when they want to feel happy!
5. Have everyone put their name on their art and display the art so others can enjoy.

Integration Ideas

Science:

- Talk about forms of matter. Group art media into solids and liquids. Can you think of a way to use gases in art?
- Explore art objects with your senses. How do they feel? Can art works have a smell? What do they look like? Can sound be a part of art? Is there edible art? Do some research in the computer lab to find out!

Language Arts:

- Discuss illustrations in books as art. Talk about how pictures help us understand the story and can help us figure out words we don't know. Show how this is done.
- Have students create their own picture book with no words and let them “read” the story to the class.

Math:

- Create shape Collages either using a variety of shapes or lots of the same kind such as all triangles
- Make jewelry using pasta or cereal or different colored beads. Use patterns in your creations. Catalog all the different patterns that children create.