Turtle Line Art

Grade 5 – Visual Arts





Turtle Line Art



Lesson Details

Grade Level: 5	Curriculum Links: Visual Arts, Science and Technology Time Needed: 45 minutes
Learning Goal	To be introduced to the different styles of lines used in art to complete an image of a
	turtle's shell. Students will also learn the importance of a turtle's shell and the various
	characteristics of them.
Success Criteria	By the end of this activity, students will understand the various styles of lines used in art
	and have experience drawing them, as well as learn the importance of a turtle's shell.
Specific	Visual Arts – Elements of Design
Expectations	Create two- and three-dimensional artworks that express feelings and ideas
	inspired by their own and others' points of view;
	Use elements of design in artworks to communicate ideas, messages, and
	understandings;
	 Demonstrate an understanding of how to read and interpret signs, symbols,
	and style in artworks;
	Use a variety of materials, tools, and techniques to determine solutions to
	design challenges: drawing, mixed media, painting, printmaking, and sculpture.
	Science and Technology – Understanding Life Systems: Human Organ Systems
	Identify interrelationships between body systems.
Materials	Turtle Outline Worksheet (attached), Worksheet (attached), Pencil, Crayons, Markers,
Needed	Pencil Crayons.

Lesson Description

Overview	Turtles don't all have the same shells, so what makes them unique? Students will learn
	about this while also creating their own turtle art piece utilizing the different styles of
	lines.
Activity	1. To begin, introduce the various styles of lines used in art to the class (E.g.
	horizontal, vertical, diagonal, wave, discontinuous, zigzag, curved, thick, thin,
	curved hatching, cross-hatching, etc.).
	2. Next, introduce the activity. Students will use their knowledge of the different
	lines used in art to complete a turtle's shell.
	3. Explain in detail the importance of a turtle's shell and the various characteristics
	of the shells of the 8 species of Ontario Turtles. For example, the Wood Turtle's
	shell looks like and has a texture similar to wood.
	4. Distribute the materials and have the students begin their art pieces.
	5. Finally, have the students complete their individual reflection worksheets
	(attached).
Background	The 8 different turtle species that are native to Ontario share similar characteristics, but
Information	the size of these body parts varies depending on the species use for it. For example, the
	Painted Turtle has a large plastron, allowing them to pull their arms, legs, and head into
	their shell when scared. But the Snapping Turtle has a small plastron which does not
	allow for them to pull their limbs in to hide – instead the snapping turtles 'snaps' to
	protect itself.
	The top shell of a turtle is called a carapace . The underside of a turtle is called a

Lesson Description

	,
	plastron. Many turtles have distinct carapace shapes (high domed like the Blanding's
	Turtle) or markings (like spots on the Spotted Turtle) that can be used to identify them.
	The triangular (or geometric) sections on the carapace are known as scutes. Marginal
	scutes are found around the carapace and ridges are the nodes (or connections)
	between them.
Blacklist Masters	Worksheet (attached)
	Turtle Outline Worksheet (attached)
	Video Link(s): Ontario Turtle Identification
	 For more information, please visit https://www.turtleguardians.com/sample-
	page/id-turtles/
Place-Based	Students are encouraged to visit a natural area after the lesson to find turtles and see
Learning	their characteristics in person.
Inquiry-Based	Using Guided Inquiry , the students will work independently to complete the worksheet
Learning	and learn about the various characteristics of a turtle's shell as well as the various forms
	of line art.
	Ask the students:
	What body parts on a turtle help it to live within its environment? (E.g. Why
	does a turtle have a shell? What's the purpose of it?)
Turtle Stories	Each species of turtle is different and carry their own unique set of characteristics. Now
	that you understand the various characteristics of a turtle, can you make a turtle from
	any other materials? Try making a turtle from Lego pieces. Students are encouraged to
	share their experiences, pictures, and worksheets on the Turtle Stories website, found
	here: https://www.turtlestories.ca/
Turtle Guardian	In Level 1 (Ontario Turtle Identification) of the Turtle Guardian Program, students will
Program Links	learn how to identify all 8 species of Ontario's turtles. For more information, please visit
	https://www.turtleguardians.com/what-is-a-turtle-guardian/

My Notes



Turtle Line Art Reflection

Q1. Which lines did you use in your art piece? Why?
Q2. Why is a turtle's shell important?
The shell acts like a piece of armor, shielding the turtles body from
predators and other harms. He turtle's shell is not something that sits
on top of them, but instead the shell is part of the bone structure and
physically attached to the turtle's spine.
Q3. What is the difference between a turtle's shell who lives in the water most of the time compared to the shell of a turtle who lives on land most of the time?
The turtle who spends most of their time in the water, if not all of their time, wil
have a smoother shell that aids in gliding through the water faster and with ease.
The turtle who spends most of their time, if not all of their time, on land will have
a rougher shell for protection and camouflage from predators.
Q4. What did you like about your turtle? What would you change?



Turtle Line Art Reflection

Q1. Which lines did you use in your art piece? Why?
Q2. Why is a turtle's shell important?
Q3. What is the difference between a turtle's shell who lives in the water most of the time compared to the shell of a turtle who lives on land most of the time?
Q4. What did you like about your turtle? What would you change?





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Complete the turtle's shell using a different line in each scute!

