

SENEGAL-AMERICA PROJECT

LESSON PLAN

AUTHOR: Claire Misko & Zan Lombardo	GRADE LEVEL: Middle School
SUBJECT: Art	DATE: December 24, 2005
TOPIC: Gris Gris Necklaces	
ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS: What are the traditional gris gris necklaces of Africa used for? How does a gris gris necklace help the wearer?	
PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE: Students will sew and lace a small gris gris necklace and fill it with items of personal significance.	
THINKING SKILL: AS-4 Students will learn to explore thoughts underlying feelings and feelings underlying thoughts.	
LESSON CONTENT: <p>Cognitive—1. Students will be aware of spatial relationships while sewing, such as front/back, inside outside, large/small, thick/thin. 2. Students will be able to visualize the end product throughout the creative process.</p> <p>Psychomotor— 3. Students will be able to thread a needle and knot a piece of thread. 4. Students will cut and sew a small pouch from felt, using scissors, thread and needle. 5. Students will be able to match button position to buttonhole. 6. Students will be able to attach necklacing to pouch using yarn or string.</p> <p>Affective— 7. Students will respond to nature and small objects to discover beauty and awe, treasure and trinkets in their own environments. 8. Students will be able to choose items of personal significance to fill their gris gris pouches.</p>	
PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES: <p>1.E. Students will know and demonstrate how arts can communicate experiences, stories or emotions through the production of works in the arts.</p> <p>1.H. Students will use and maintain materials, equipment and tools safely in the art studio.</p> <p>2.G. Students will be able to relate works in the arts to geographic regions. (Africa)</p> <p>2.I. Students will be able to identify, explain and analyze philosophical beliefs as they relate to works in the arts.</p> <p>2.K. Students will be able to identify, explain and analyze traditions as they relate to works in the arts.</p> <p>3.E. Students will be able to describe and use intuitive criticism as they analyze their work in the arts and humanities.</p> <p>4.A. Students will be able to identify uses of expressive symbols that show philosophical meanings in works in the arts and humanities.</p> <p>4.D. Students will be able to explain choices made regarding media, technique, form, subject matter and themes that communicate their own artistic philosophy within a work in the arts and humanities.</p>	

INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES:

Gris Gris are African good luck charms. They are usually worn around the neck and bring the wearer special powers. They can be made from many things such as metal, leather, wood, cloth or bone. A Gris fris made of iron is thought to give great strength. Some gris gris are made like little envelopes to carry a little personal treasure. Teacher asks students: What will you put in your gris gris? Think about it. A short poem? Maybe a note from a friend! There are just so many things to be found on a walk, like berries, seeds, rocks, iron deposits, fools gold, quartz crystals, fossils, feathers, etc. How about just a little piece of paper that says, "I'm great!" Or a fortune from a fortune cookie. Perhaps a rock you found a walk that slightly resembles a figure or a heart. Whatever it is, it should be special

DIRECTIONS:

1. Fold your felt into the shape that you like. Try a few shapes cut long, short, etc.
2. Use white chalk to mark the shape of your flap (pointed, shallow curve, really rounded or geometric) and cut the flap.
3. Thread your needle. Help a fellow art student if he or she needs help with this.
4. Twist the end of the thread to a point. Hold thread close to end for more control while threading the needle!
5. Then you can do one of two things: leave ends of equal length and knot them together or leave one end longer and knot that longer end. Do NOT knot your thread near the eye of the needle!
6. Begin to sew at the bottom of the pouch back. Pull through to front and around to back. Pull through to front.
 - ✓ Remember to always pull the thread all the way through.
 - ✓ Be aware of what you're doing.
 - ✓ Stay calm if you get a nasty knot...it happens.
 - ✓ Ask for the Knot Fairy to help you.
7. When you reach the end, make sure you leave enough thread to tie a knot!
8. If you conquered one side, you are ready to rule the other side. Go for it!
9. When you are finished sewing both sides, it's time to add a button.
 - ✓ Figure out where you want it on your flap.
 - ✓ Mark that spot and try to find that same spot underneath and mark it, too.
 - ✓ The button goes under the flap.
10. Sew on button from inside the pouch, being careful not to sew both pieces together.
11. Cut a SMALL slit on flap.
12. Fold flap over. Feel where the button is and mark that spot.
13. Bend flap and cut a small notch. REMEMBER IT WILL BE TWICE AS BIG WHEN YOU OPEN IT!
14. On the back, cut two slits—small itsy bitsy ones!
15. Tie a length of yarn that suits you to your gris gris.
16. Find something special to put in it.
17. Enjoy your gris gris or give it to someone you care for!

EVALUATION PROCEDURES:

Gris Gris Necklaces Rubric

Class Sharing of Art Works

Teacher Observation of Process and Product

MATERIALS AND AIDS (what you will need in order to teach this lesson)

- Small pieces of colored felt
- Scissors
- Colored thread or embroidery floss
- Large eyed needles
- Assorted small buttons
- Handmade beads (See Trade Bead lesson for additional activities)
- Found objects (small stones, leaves, crystals, seeds, fossils, feathers, etc.)
- Yarn, string, carpet warp, or macramé cord