

SENEGAL-AMERICA PROJECT

LESSON PLAN

AUTHOR: Claire Misko & Zan Lombardo	GRADE LEVEL: Middle School
SUBJECT: Art	DATE: January 10, 2006
TOPIC: Trade Beads	
ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS: What have beads been used for in African culture besides decoration and jewelry?	
PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE: After learning about African trade beads, students will shape their own beads from clay and decorate them after firing.	
THINKING SKILL: CR-1 Generate many diverse solutions to presented and found problems.	
LESSON CONTENT: Cognitive —1. Students will understand the use of beads in trade in the ancient world. 2. Students will be aware of the importance of craftsmanship and how it influences the value of the final work of art. Psychomotor —3. Students will use fine motor skills with clay to create smooth and pleasingly formed beads. 4. Students will drill holes in each bead and be sure those holes remain open so the final results are useful for stringing. 5. Students will use fine point colored markers to add decoration and color to their fired beads and coat them with acrylic gloss medium when finished. Affective —7. Students will use color to express meaning psychologically as they decorate their beads. 8. Students will develop a personal aesthetic as they form and decorate their own beads, intuiting shapes and colors that they find pleasing.	
PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES: 1.A. Students will know and use the elements of color, shape and form to create works in the arts. 1.H. Students will use and maintain materials, equipment and tools safely in the art studio. 2.G. Students will relate works in the arts to geographic regions (Africa). 2.K. Students will identify, explain and analyze traditions as they relate to works in the arts. 4.A. Students will identify uses of expressive colors and symbols that show philosophical meanings in works in the arts and humanities.	

INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES:

SHORT HISTORY OF TRADE BEADS:

Beads have existed for thousands of years. They may be made of almost anything, but are usually made of glass, metal, stone, amber, gems, shell or wood. Archaeologists believe that beads were worn as amulets for religious or ceremonial reasons, not just for decoration. Beads were also used in trading. Beads that were exchanged for something else were called "trade beads." These beads, found in many different places, are good indicators of ancient trade routes. Ostrich eggshell beads from Africa have been found in Greece and Rome. In some African tribes, beads were an important part of social customs. They carried special messages to loved ones and friends in their color and pattern.

Colors had the following meanings:

- Yellow—wealth
- Pink—poverty
- Red—anger
- Blue—departure
- White—love

Still other kinds of beads were known as "Eye beads." These were made of opaque glass within circles of another color. Lots of these "eye beads" were made in blue glass with white eyes. They were originally made in Phoenicia and Carthage. Then they were exported to Sardinia and Spain. From here, they were introduced to the west African coast for trading purposes.

1. Teacher will perform a brief demonstration of the bead project and use of materials.
2. Teacher will play music of Africa to inspire the imaginations of the students while they shape beads, making holes in wet clay beads with toothpicks.
3. Let the beads dry on toothpicks gradually for several days. Then remove the toothpicks and let the beads dry for several more days. When thoroughly dry, fire in kiln.
4. After firing, draw designs on beads with felt tip pens or colored Sharpie markers.
5. Coat the beads with acrylic gloss medium to make the colors shiny and permanent. Let dry on waxed paper or strung on bamboo skewers.
6. String on heavy cord, yarn or waxed linen thread. Beads may also be placed in gris-gris necklaces.

EVALUATION:

Teacher observation of process and product
Trade Bead Rubric

MATERIALS AND AIDS:

- Original samples of authentic beads (if available).
- Completed teacher samples of beads
- White lowfire clay or airdry clay
- Toothpicks or bamboo skewers
- Clay tools
- Wax paper
- Variety of fine point permanent markers
- Acrylic gloss medium
- Paint brushes
- String, yarn, memory wire, macramé cord, or other stringing material