

Unit 2: Multi-Media Explorations

7th Grade Art

20 Class Meetings

Created May 2023, Updated March 2026

• Essential Questions

- How do the principles of design help to organize elements in a work of art?
- How can understanding principles of design help to interpret a work of art?

Enduring Understandings with Unit Goals

EU 1: Artists use principles of design to organize visual communication. The principles of design are how the elements are displayed.

- Analyze principles used in various artworks.
- Compare and contrast various works of art based on principles used.

EU 2: Design principles can be used intentionally to elicit a specific response from the viewer.

- Compare and contrast various works of art based on principles of design.
- Analyze peer works of art based on the principles of design.
- Create a work of art that demonstrates knowledge of the 7 principles of art.
- Explore use of principles to convey meaning.

Standards

Common Core State Standards:

- **VA: Cr3.1.7a:** Reflect on and explain important information about personal artwork in an artist statement or other format.
- **VA: Re8.1.7a:** Interpret art by analyzing art making approaches, the characteristics of form and structure relevant contextual information, subject, matter and use of media to identify ideas and mood.
- **ELA-Literacy:** cite text-based evidence to support an analysis of informational text. (RI 6.1)

ISAAC Vision of the Graduate Competencies

Competency 1: Write effectively for a variety of purposes.

Competency 2: Speak to diverse audiences in an accountable manner.

Competency 3: Develop the behaviors needed to interact and contribute with others on a team.

Competency 4: Analyze and solve problems independently and collaboratively.

Competency 5: Be responsible, creative, and empathetic members of the community.

Unit 1: Principles of Design

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Revised May, 2026

Unit Content Overview

1. Art Analysis

- Describe a work of art based on visual observations.
- Analyze and interpret works of art using visual thinking strategies
- Evaluate works of art.
- Key vocabulary and terms: principles of design

2. Application of Design Principles

- Describe and illustrate each of the principles of design.
- Distinguish all principles of design in various images.
- Compare and contrast images using art vocabulary to interpret meaning.
- Key vocabulary and terms: balance, emphasis, pattern, contrast, scale, movement, unity

3. Art Creation and critique

- Plan and draft a 2D project; principles of design.
- Examine rubric criteria and student exemplars.
- Create a final image that conveys knowledge of; Principles of design.
- Evaluate and reflect on your own work.
- Critique a peer's image using the art analysis process.
- Demonstrate vocabulary and content knowledge with quizzes.
- Key vocabulary and terms: rubric, criteria, peer, revise, well-crafted, reflect.

Interdisciplinary Connection:

- Language Arts
- Math
- Social Studies
- Science

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Daily Learning Objectives with *Do Now Activities*

Students will be able to...

- Engage with each of the 7 **Principles of Design*****
Is there a meaning behind the way an artist uses the elements of art?
- Explore what **emphasis** is and how it is used in art.**
What is the first thing you see in the image presented?
- Infer what **contrast** means.**
How can light be shown in an artwork?
- Identify **movement** in an artwork.**
How do you think an artwork could express movement?
- Engage with multiple ways to create **pattern** in artwork.**
Draw 3 examples of patterns
- Analyze the purpose of **scale** in artwork.**
Is there meaning behind the size of subjects in a composition?
- Distinguish **harmony** within a work of art.*
How can art elements work together?
- Combine the **principles of design** to create a 2D artwork.***
How can multiple principles of design be used in the same work of art effectively?
- Critique a peer's image using art analysis process and *summarize* vocabulary and content knowledge via quizzes.*
What is the importance of reflection within the art making process?

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Instructional Strategies/Differentiated Instruction

- Visual Demonstrations
- Student-led instruction
- Independent problem-solving
- Feedback and Critique
- Revising and editing
- Collaborative problem-solving
- Cross-curricular problem solving (independent and collaborative)
- Accountable Talk
- Homework

EL Strategies

- Word walls
- TWPS (Think, write, pair, share)
- Pre-reading strategies
- Culturally responsive teaching
- Explicit modeling
- Key Vocabulary
- Graphic organizers
- Strategic grouping
- Non-verbal Assessments

Assessments

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS:

- Warm-ups (TWPS)
- Sticky note critiques
- Mid-class check-ins
- Exit Slips
- Accountable Talk Discussions
- Student-led instruction
- Homework
- Image Performance Task
- Weekly Studio Grades

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS:

- Vocab. Unit 1 Quiz
- Unit Task – 2D Principles of Design Artwork

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Unit Task

Unit Task Name: Principles of Design 2D

Description: Students will use art vocabulary and knowledge of materials to create a 2D color image that expresses understanding of principles of design. Students must intentionally incorporate at least 3 principles of design.

Evaluation: Summative Assessment

Unit Resources

- Visual Images – Art History References
- Practice Worksheets
- Pencils
- Laptops
- Basic Art Materials (Paper, Paint, Marker, etc.)