

5th Grade American Online School

ART CURRICULUM

Exploration, Expression, and Creativity in the Visual World

Version May/2025

1. Introduction

The Role of Art Education in 5th Grade

The 5th Grade Visual Arts curriculum inspires students to explore and express their identities, ideas, and environments through hands-on projects and visual experimentation. Learners build foundational techniques in drawing, color theory, printing, and textile work while reflecting on how art shapes—and is shaped by—culture and context.

By the end of this course, students will:

- ✓ Apply elements of art and principles of design in creative works.
 - ✓ Experiment with multiple materials including paint, print, yarn, and mixed media.
 - ✓ Understand how artists draw inspiration from nature, cities, and culture.
 - ✓ Use planning and critique to revise and reflect on their work.
 - ✓ Present and discuss their art with confidence and purpose.
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2. Core Competence Areas

ART.1 Drawing and Imagination

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- ✓ Use line, shape, and space in original drawings.
- ✓ Create expressive doodles and structured compositions.
- ✓ Draw from observation and from imagination.

Competencies

ART.1.A.1 – Exploring lines and visual rhythm.

- Create intricate doodles, mandalas, and zentangles.
- Use overlapping and detail for texture and motion.

ART.1.A.2 – Developing drawing from life and memory.

- Draw cats and animals using form and expression.
- Sketch houses and city scenes from multiple perspectives.

ART.2 Color and Design Theory

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Mix primary colors to create secondary and tertiary shades.
- ✓ Apply warm/cool contrasts and color schemes in their artwork.
- ✓ Reflect on how color affects mood and symbolism.

Competencies

ART.2.A.1 – Understanding color relationships.

- Use color wheels and paint blending to explore hue and tone.
- Create abstract compositions based on emotion or season.

ART.2.A.2 – Applying color theory to themed work.

- Use color planning in cityscape art and botanical prints.
 - Incorporate monochrome and complementary color strategies.
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ART.3 Printmaking and Nature-Inspired Art

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ **Create print-based artwork using natural textures.**
- ✓ **Design repeated patterns and layered effects.**
- ✓ **Observe natural forms to inspire design choices.**

Competencies

ART.3.A.1 – Practicing printmaking with plants and textures.

- Use leaves and vegetables for plant printing techniques.
- Create multi-layered compositions with ink and stamp methods.

ART.3.A.2 – Expressing connection to the environment.

- Make observational sketches of natural forms. Present a final print that shows color, repetition, and balance.
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ART.4 Shadow, Light, and Mixed Media

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ **Understand how shadows are formed and depicted.**
- ✓ **Use cutouts and tracing to explore scale and silhouette.**
- ✓ **Combine found objects, light sources, and photography in their work.**

Competencies

ART.4.A.1 – Exploring contrast through “Lencil” art.

- Use backlighting and projection to create silhouette effects.
- Layer images and materials to create visual tension.

ART.4.A.2 – Applying shadows in artistic storytelling.

- Construct a visual narrative using shadows, light, and shapes.
 - Create collaborative “shadow gallery” installations.
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ART.5 Textiles and Creative Craft

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Use simple crochet techniques to create textured artwork.
- ✓ Understand pattern, fiber, and form in textile-based projects.
- ✓ Express ideas through craft traditions from diverse cultures.

Competencies

ART.5.A.1 – Learning fiber arts through repetition and pattern.

- Practice single crochet stitches to make small textile artworks.
- Create bookmarks, bracelets, or abstract forms with yarn.

ART.5.A.2 – Blending craft and meaning.

- Research fiber traditions from global communities.
 - Design a project that reflects identity or heritage.
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ART.6 Textiles and Creative Craft

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Use visual art to explore sensory experiences and food culture.
- ✓ Represent objects and concepts symbolically.
- ✓ Incorporate writing, drawing, and color in creative expression.

Competencies

ART.6.A.1 – Illustrating the world of food and celebration.

- Create “Bon Appétit” themed still life drawings and menus.
- Use collage and mixed media to build textured food compositions.

ART.6.A.2 – Interpreting meaning in visual form.

- Connect food and culture through art and storytelling.
- Design personal “menu books” that reflect memory and mood.

3. Assessment and Evaluation

Formative Assessments – Studio Habits

- ✓ Sketchbook check-ins and idea maps.
- ✓ Peer critiques and reflection statements.
- ✓ Step-by-step technique rubrics.

Summative Assessments – Final Artworks

- ✓ Plant printing showcase.
- ✓ Shadow art presentation.
- ✓ Color Theory Abstract Composition.

Authentic Assessment – Public Display and Personal Voice

- ✓ Art wall exhibits and gallery walks.
- ✓ Student-curated “My Art Story” booklet.
- ✓ Final portfolio with artist statement.

4. Instructional Strategies for Online Learning

Process-Driven Exploration

- ✓ Emphasize iteration, experimentation, and personal meaning.
- ✓ Use process photos and reflection journals.

Integration with Nature and Culture

- ✓ Connect themes to geography, food, history, and science.
- ✓ Explore artists like Yayoi Kusama, Georgia O’Keeffe, and Keith Haring.

Technology and Media Arts

- ✓ Use iPads for photo layering and stop-motion art.
- ✓ Introduce animation or digital design in shadow and color units.

Learning Culture

- ✓ Foster a judgment-free space for creative risk-taking.
- ✓ Value individuality, curiosity, and storytelling.
- ✓ Encourage sharing, critique, and celebration of every voice.