

Making Patterns

Purpose

Students will make a simple pattern with shapes in a linear fashion and then apply the concept to decorate a picture frame.

Materials

For pattern quilts: 4" × 24" strips of construction paper marked into 4" squares, various 3" construction paper shapes (hearts, circles, animals, etc.), glue, example of a pattern, large pieces of construction paper

For pattern frames: store-bought photo mattes or teacher-created mattes, snapshot of each child, variety of small construction paper shapes to fit on the border of the mattes, example of completed patterned frame

Activity

A. Pre-Activity Preparation

Prepare the construction paper strips, construction paper shapes, mattes, and the example of a completed patterned frame.

B. Pattern Quilt

1. Divide the class into groups of four or five students.
2. Give each group at least three types of the 3" shapes and each student a 4" × 24" strip.
3. Ask each student to choose two each of three different shapes.
4. Show students a previously created pattern, and explain what makes it a pattern.
5. Instruct students to create a pattern by gluing their shapes onto the strips (one shape in each 4" square).
6. Have students place their names and group names or numbers on the lower right hand corner of their strips, and collect strips.
7. Cut construction paper to an appropriate size (20" × 24" if four students are in each group, 24" × 24" if five students are in each group). This is each group's "quilt piece."
8. Glue or staple strips from each group onto its own "quilt piece."

(continued)



MEETING INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

Some students may have difficulty creating patterns. Draw the outline of the shapes onto the strips to help these students develop a pattern.



INCORPORATING TECHNOLOGY

Have students create shapes using a drawing program or clip art in a word processing program. Teach students how to copy and paste shapes or clip art into a table to create a pattern.

Activity (continued)

C. Pattern Frames

1. Show several examples of patterns and an example of a finished picture frame with a pattern on the border of the frame.
2. Discuss how the pattern was created and what constitutes a pattern.
3. Hand out the mattes.
4. Have students pick out two or three shapes to glue onto their mattes, and have them choose several pieces of each shape.
5. Direct students to glue the shapes onto the mattes in a pattern. Monitor the activity closely to make sure that students are making patterns.
6. Instruct students to glue their snapshots onto their frames to complete their picture frames.

Questions for Review

Basic Concepts and Processes

During the activity, discuss the following questions with your students to gauge their understanding of the Standard Indicator:



Show me the pattern that you made.



What makes it a pattern?



How did you make your pattern?



How did you make a pattern in the shape of a square?
