

Lesson Overview: Polar Bear Skiing Holiday Card

Grade Level: 4th Grader

Project Length: 75 minutes

Medium: Construction paper collage, drawing, and simple mixed media

Final Product: A winter holiday card featuring a skiing polar bear

Objectives

- Student will learn to break a complex figure (a polar bear skiing) into simple shapes through guided drawing.
- Student will use cutting and gluing skills to assemble a layered construction-paper collage.
- Student will explore composition by placing background elements and foreground elements.
- Student will add expressive details using oil pastels and sharpies to bring motion and personality to the artwork.
- Student will create a handmade holiday card for the school superintendent.

Materials

- Construction paper
- Watercolor paper
- Drawing paper
- Pencils & erasers
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Oil pastels
- Black sharpie
- Colored sharpies
- White tempera paint
- Thin Paintbrush

Lesson Steps

1. Introduce the Project

Teacher will meet with the student and explain what they will be working on one-on-one today. Teacher will show the student the example that they will be recreating.

2. Create the Background

The student will choose a colored piece of construction paper for the background. They will then take a piece of white watercolor paper and cut it to create the slope. The student will then glue the slope onto the background. The student will then take green construction paper and cut it into different sized trees. Then the student will glue the trees onto the slope.

3. Directed Drawing: Polar Bear

The teacher will guide the student in drawing a standing polar bear in a directed draw. Once the polar bear is drawn, the student will outline the bear in black sharpie and used other colored sharpie to add other details such as eyes, the nose, and paw lines. Once the polar bear is complete, the student will cut out the bear.

4. Add Clothing and Ski Gear

Using construction-paper scraps, the teacher will demonstrate how to cut out shapes to create the scarf, hat and skis. The student will create the details, gluing them to the bear as they are complete. Once all of the details are added to the bear, the student will glue the bear down to the background.

5. Add Snow Swirls & Motion Lines, and Details

Once the bear is glued to the background, the student will used colored sharpies to add extra details to the bear. Then, the student will use oil pastels to add movement lines and details in the snow. Once the scene is complete, the student will use white tempera paint to paint snow details onto the trees. The student will then flip the brush around and use the end of the brush and dip it into white tempera to create snow falling around the bear and sky.

Differentiation / Support

- Provide pre-cut shapes if student needed fine-motor support.
- Offer step-by-step shape references (circles, ovals, rectangles) for the bear's body parts.
- Allow creative variations: different colors, trees, scarf patterns, or expressions.

Success Criteria

Students can:

- Follow guided steps to draw a recognizable character.
- Use construction paper shapes to build a layered collage.
- Add details that show movement and winter atmosphere.
- Create a cheerful holiday card with personality and craftsmanship.

Teacher Exemplar:



Student Artwork:

