



Teacher Resource:

Using the Elements of Art and Principles of Design

Sponsored by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation

Using the Elements of Art and Principles of Design

This lesson was developed by Ms. Kristy Smith, a Social Studies teacher at Keyser Elementary, as part of a collaboration project between the Toledo Museum of Art and area educators. It is intended for 8th grade students.

Goals: Understand the Elements of Art and Principles of Design and apply them to works of art and an object.

Objectives: Students will apply the Elements of Art and Principles of Design to images in their social studies textbooks.

Common Core Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.7 Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well in words.

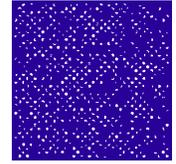
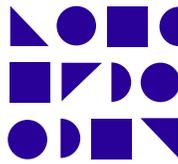
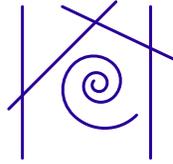
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.2 Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

Visual Literacy Skills: Close Looking, Description

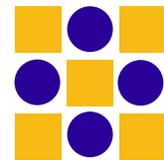
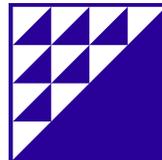
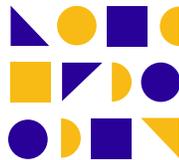
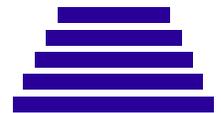
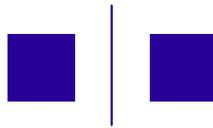
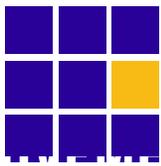
Materials: Image of Stele of Zezen-nakht, everyday object

Length: 25–30 minutes

ELEMENTS OF ART



PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN



Step 1: Introduce students to the Elements of Art and Principles of Design. Discuss each element or principle so students understand what each means.

Step 2: Display the image of *The Stele of Zezen-nakht* at the end of this document. Give students a minute or two to look closely without any discussion.

Step 3: Assign each student an element or principle. They will look for that element or principle in the image. Have students share their elements or principle with the class and then share where they found that element or principle.

Step 4: Show students an everyday object with little detail. Assign an element or principle to each student again, and ask them to find that element or principle in the everyday object.

Step 5: Debrief with students. Ask questions like, “which was more difficult, the work of art or the object?” Discuss with students.

Step 6: Assign two elements or principles to each student. Have them choose a photograph from their textbook. Have students write a paragraph about the picture they have chosen using their cards to frame their writing. Students can share the paragraph and photo if they choose.



Egyptian, *The Stele of Zexen-nakht*, ca. 2000 BCE. Limestone with stucco and polychrome pigment. 29 1/2 x 36 in. (74.9 x 91.4 cm). Purchased with funds from the Libbey Endowment, Gift of Edward Drummond Libbey, 1947.61.