



Elements: Line

Principles: Balance

Materials:

- 12" x 18" blue or turquoise construction paper
- 9" x 12" white construction paper
- Watercolor trays (or use just blue liquid watercolor paint)
- Water (in cups/jars)
- Brushes
- Baby Wipes
- Rulers
- Black colored pencil
- Tempera paint (white and pinks)
- Vase templates (at least 8" in height)
- Scissors

Instructions:

1. Search for images of **Ming vases** to display on smartboard. Explain that the color blue gained special significance in the Chinese history of ceramics during the Tang dynasty (618-907). Cobalt blue was rare and gained in popularity due to its scarcity. Gifting or displaying a Ming vase was a sign of wealth or prestige.
2. Show students the art **sample**. Talk about the use of **line** in the pattern on the vases. Mention the **balance** of the pattern on the vases as well. Explain that students will get to paint with their fingers as well for this art.
3. Have students **trace a vase template** on the white paper and cut it out.
4. Center the vase at the bottom of the blue background paper and instruct students to **draw a faint line at the top of the vase** onto background paper. This will be used to approximate where to draw the branches that are in the vase.
5. **Paint** a blue patterned design on the vase using line.
6. While the watercolor vase dries, have the students use black colored pencil to **draw their branches** – beginning at the faint line on background paper (so the branches "stay in" the vase). **Model** this idea, if there is confusion.
7. Let students **use their pointer fingers to make blossoms** on the branches with the tempera paint. Have them clean their hands with a baby wipe when done.
8. Lastly, carefully **glue** the vase onto background paper.
9. Have students put their name on the back of art and clean up.

Balance refers to the equilibrium of various elements and involves a sense of order. Order may be symmetrical, formal or informal, or rigid and random.