

# PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

PRESERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE:  
EXPLORING AND REVIVING TRADITIONAL ART FORMS



PROJECT CREATED BASED ON THE FRAMEWORK FOR HIGH  
QUALITY PROJECT BASED LEARNING



# "Preserving Cultural Heritage: Exploring and Reviving Traditional Art Forms"



**Driving Question:** *How can we promote cultural understanding and preserve traditional art forms through our creative expressions?*

## **Phase 1: Explore and Investigate**

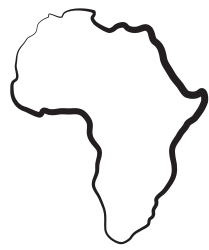
- **Introduction to Traditional Art Forms:**

Engage students in a discussion about the importance of traditional art forms in preserving cultural heritage.

Showcase examples of traditional art forms from diverse cultures. In the following pages, you can see examples of traditional art forms, one from each continent.

Use the Brainstorm Idea Handout to help students to relate the information with the driving question.





*Africa*



# Art Form: Ndebele Wall Painting

Ndebele wall painting is a traditional art form practiced by the Ndebele people of South Africa and Zimbabwe. It has a long history dating back to the 19th century when Ndebele women started using their homes as canvases for vibrant geometric patterns.

**Artifacts:** The walls of Ndebele homes are adorned with colorful and intricate geometric designs using natural pigments and house paint.

**Famous Artist:** Esther Mahlangu, a renowned Ndebele artist, gained international recognition for her vibrant mural paintings and artwork inspired by Ndebele tradition.





Africa



# Art Form: Ndebele Wall Painting





Asia



# Art Form: Chinese Calligraphy

Chinese calligraphy is an ancient art form that originated in China around 4000 years ago. It involves the artistic expression of written characters using a brush and ink, reflecting the aesthetic principles of balance, rhythm, and harmony.

**Artifacts:** Calligraphy works include scrolls, hanging scrolls, and hand scrolls that display elegant brushstrokes and carefully composed characters.

**Famous Artist:** Wang Xizhi, a famous calligrapher from the 4th century, is revered as the Sage of Calligraphy in Chinese history. His masterpiece, the "Preface to the Poems Composed at the Orchid Pavilion," is considered one of the greatest works of Chinese calligraphy.

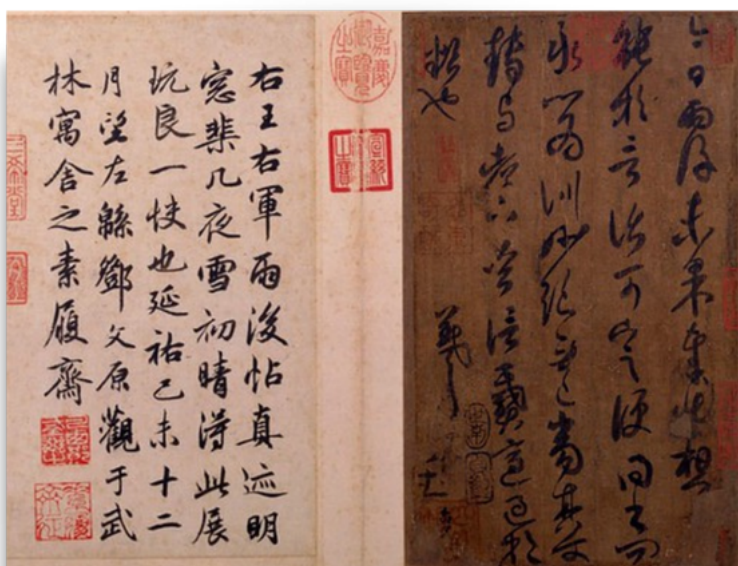
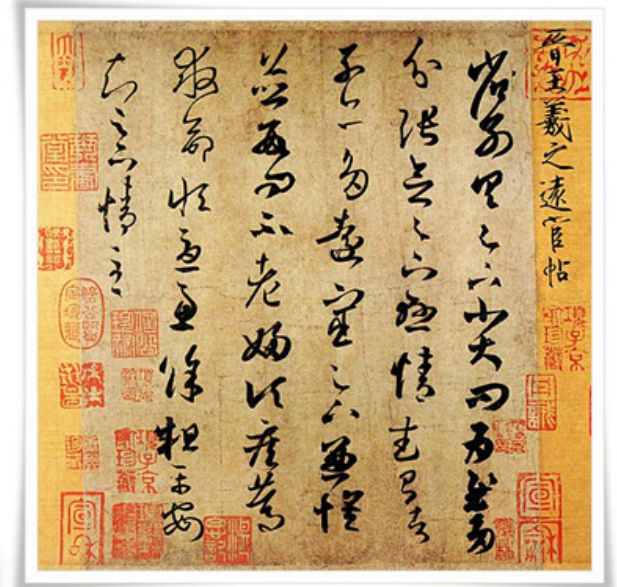




# Asia



## Art Form: Chinese Calligraphy





Europe



# Art Form: Renaissance Painting

Renaissance painting emerged in Europe during the 14th to 17th centuries, marking a significant shift from the medieval art style. It emphasized realistic portrayal, perspective, and the use of light and shadow to create depth and drama.

**Artifacts:** Renaissance paintings encompass religious subjects, portraits, and mythological themes. Iconic works include Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" and Michelangelo's frescoes in the Sistine Chapel.

**Famous Artist:** Leonardo da Vinci, an Italian polymath, and artist is renowned for his mastery of Renaissance painting. His diverse works, including "The Last Supper" and the aforementioned "Mona Lisa," continue to captivate audiences worldwide.

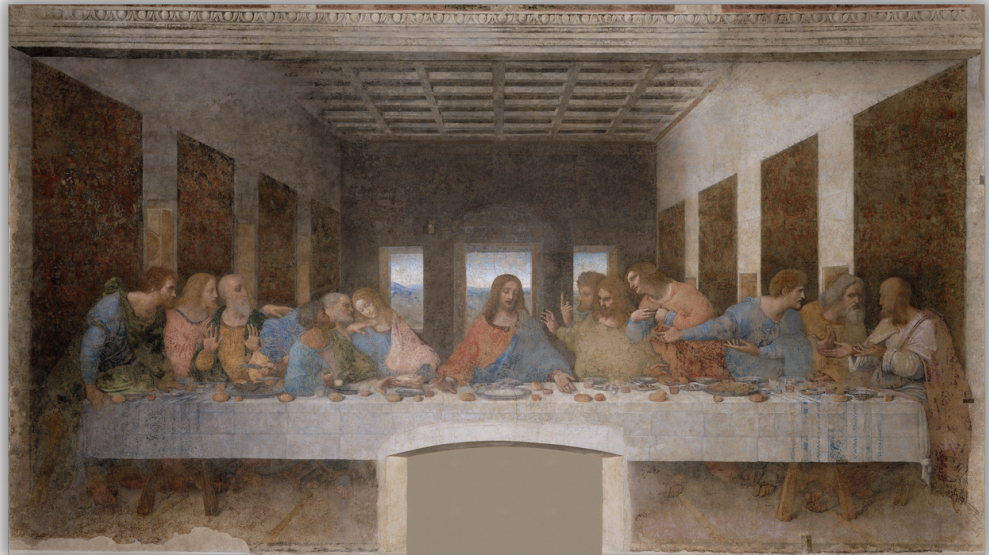




Europe



# Art Form: Renaissance Painting





*North America*



# Art Form: Native American Pottery

Native American pottery has a rich history spanning thousands of years and is practiced by various indigenous tribes across North America. Each tribe has its distinct style, techniques, and symbolism, passed down through generations.

**Artifacts:** Native American pottery ranges from functional vessels for cooking and storage to intricately designed ceremonial pieces. They often feature symbolic motifs, animal forms, and earthy color palettes.

**Famous Artist:** Maria Martinez, a renowned potter from the Pueblo of San Ildefonso in New Mexico, revitalized and popularized Native American pottery in the 20th century. Her black-on-black pottery techniques and designs gained international recognition.





# North America



## Art Form: Native American Pottery





*Oceania*



# Art Form: Aboriginal Dot Painting

Aboriginal dot painting is a traditional art form practiced by Indigenous Australian communities, particularly the Western Desert tribes. It has a history dating back tens of thousands of years and is deeply connected to the Dreamtime, the spiritual and cultural beliefs of Aboriginal peoples.

**Artifacts:** Aboriginal dot paintings are created using natural pigments and feature intricate dot patterns representing ancestral stories, sacred sites, and the relationship between people and land. They are commonly found on canvas, bark, and rocks.

**Famous Artist:** Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri, an esteemed Aboriginal artist, played a crucial role in popularizing dot painting internationally. His work, "Warlugulong," is one of the most significant and sought-after examples of Aboriginal art.





Oceania



# Art Form: Aboriginal Dot Painting





## *South America*



# **Art Form: Peruvian Textile Weaving**

Peruvian textile weaving is an ancient art form dating back thousands of years to pre-Columbian civilizations such as the Incas. It involves intricate techniques using backstrap or foot looms and natural fibers like alpaca and cotton.

**Artifacts:** Peruvian textiles feature vibrant colors, intricate patterns, and symbolic motifs that represent cultural narratives, traditions, and beliefs. They include garments, tapestries, and textiles for ceremonial purposes.

**Famous Artist:** Maximo Laura, a contemporary Peruvian weaver, is known for his stunning tapestries that blend traditional Andean weaving techniques with modern artistic expressions. His works have been exhibited globally.





# South America



## Art Form: Peruvian Textile Weaving





# Brainstorm Idea Handout

Assigned Art Form: \_\_\_\_\_

## History:

Explore the origins and historical development of the assigned art form.  
Investigate key events, periods, or influences that have shaped its evolution.

## Cultural Significance:

Examine the cultural and societal importance of the art form within its community or region.  
Identify rituals, traditions, or symbolic meanings associated with the art form.

## Techniques and Materials:

Investigate the specific techniques used to create the art form.  
Explore the materials traditionally employed in its production.

## Symbolism and Imagery:

Analyze the symbolism and imagery embedded within the art form.  
Investigate the meanings and messages conveyed through its visual elements.

## Research Reflection Questions

How does the assigned art form reflect the cultural identity of its community or region?

What challenges or threats does the art form face in terms of preservation and continuity?

How can creative expressions and contemporary adaptations contribute to the promotion and preservation of the assigned art form?





- **Researching Traditional Art Forms:**

Divide students into small groups, and assign each group a specific traditional art form to research.

Students conduct in-depth research on the assigned art form, focusing on its history, cultural significance, techniques, materials, and symbolism. Use the templates to guide the research, but also provide different materials or access to the internet to facilitate this part of the project.

## **Phase 2: Create and Collaborate**

### **Artistic Revival:**

In their groups, students explore ways to revive and reinterpret the traditional art forms they researched, while adding their own creative expressions.

Students experiment with different mediums, techniques, or materials to infuse contemporary elements into the traditional art form.

Encourage students to think critically about how to respect and honor cultural heritage while bringing a fresh perspective.





## **Collaborative Art Project:**

Allocate time for a collaborative art project where groups combine their skills and interpretations to create a larger-scale artwork.

The collaborative piece should reflect the fusion of traditional and contemporary elements, symbolizing the cultural diversity and creativity within the classroom.

### **Phase 3: Present and Reflect**

#### **Art Exhibition:**

Organize an art exhibition within the school or community space to showcase the students' artwork and celebrate the revival of traditional art forms.

Create displays featuring the individual and collaborative artwork, along with explanations about the cultural heritage and artistic process.

Invite the school community, parents, and other classes to visit the exhibition and engage in meaningful conversations about cultural diversity and art preservation.





## **Reflection and Evaluation:**

Facilitate a class discussion where students reflect on their learning journey, their understanding of traditional art forms, and the impact of the project.

Encourage students to evaluate their artwork and collaborative efforts, identifying strengths, areas of growth, challenges faced, and how they overcame them.

Provide a rubric or checklist for self-assessment and peer feedback on individual and group work.

## **Community Engagement:**

Explore opportunities to extend the impact of the project beyond the classroom by sharing the artwork and knowledge with local cultural organizations, museums, or community events.

Discuss ways in which students can continue to promote and preserve traditional art forms within their own lives and the broader community.

Throughout the PBL unit, integrate opportunities for cross-curricular connections, such as history, geography, cultural studies, or language arts, to deepen students' understanding of the cultural context and significance of the traditional art forms. Encourage creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and respect for diverse cultures as students explore and revive traditional art forms in a contemporary context.





**Thank you for downloading my resources!**

Remember that on my website, I have diverse materials and resources that help you to flip your classroom into a multicultural place, where your students will be able to experience the world through Arts and culture. Several Multicultural activities, for all grade levels, Project-Based Learning, Arts Integration, and student choice-based are some examples.

I am glad to have you on this journey and remember: Be Creative Today!

***Camila Vasconcelos***

[msmilaarts.com](http://msmilaarts.com)



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