

Designs with Symmetry Inspired by Alfredo Arreguín

A HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITY
DESIGNED BY RENATA MAPES

Materials

- *Washingtonia* by Alfredo Arreguín (included at the end of lesson)
- Video: Symmetry and Balance
- White paper
- Pencils with erasers
- Rulers
- Fine tip markers, black for outlines and colored for filling in the designs



Sample Image

Image Source: Museum of Northwest Art

Description

Students will learn about line symmetry, radial symmetry, and balance in compositions.

Using *Washingtonia* by Alfredo Arreguín as inspiration, students will create their own drawings with symmetrical elements.

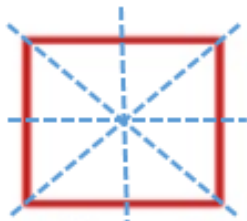
Instructions

- 1)** Introduce the lesson by showing students the attached video on symmetry and balance. Give students time to ask questions and discuss the video. You may also want to discuss the Lines of Symmetry graphic included on the next page.
- 2)** Show students *Washingtonia* by Alfredo Arreguín and use VTS (Visual Thinking Strategies) to discuss the painting.
 - VTS is an inquiry-based method of facilitating discussion. Tips and resources on VTS and an image of *Washingtonia* are included at the end of this lesson.
 - Discuss the shapes found in the painting and look for different types of symmetry.
- 3)** Pass out supplies. Students will now create their own designs with both line and radial symmetry. Ask students to draw the design using pencil first, then outline with markers.
- 4)** Once students have finished with their outlines, they can erase any pencil marks and then color in their designs.
 - After coloring, allow students time to point out the various symmetries they used in their designs.

Relevant Vocabulary

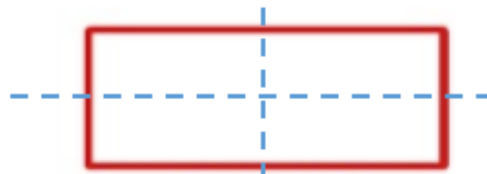
- ✓ Line symmetry
- ✓ Symmetrical
- ✓ Asymmetrical
- ✓ Radial symmetry
- ✓ Balance

Lines of Symmetry



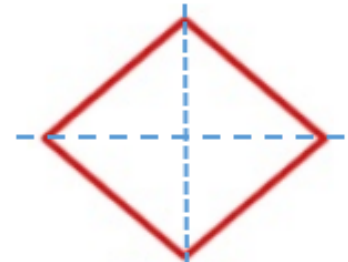
Square

4 lines of symmetry



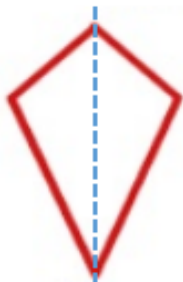
Rectangle

2 lines of symmetry



Rhombus

2 lines of symmetry



Kite

1 line of symmetry



Isosceles Trapezoid

1 line of symmetry



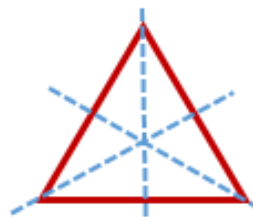
Trapezoid

No lines of symmetry



Parallelogram

No lines of symmetry



Equilateral Triangle

3 lines of symmetry



Isosceles Triangle

1 line of symmetry

Image source: <https://www.onlinemathlearning.com/line-plane-symmetry.html>

Learning and State Standards

Fulfills **Washington State Arts Learning Standards:**

- **Fifth Grade: VA:Cr2.1.5** (Experiment and develop skills in multiple art-making techniques and approaches through practice)
- **Sixth Grade: VA:Cr2.1.6** (Demonstrate openness in trying new ideas, materials, methods, and approaches in making works of art and design)

Visual Thinking Strategies

MoNA's Education programs utilize Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS), which is a research-based teaching method that promotes aesthetic development, including critical thinking and communication skills. Here in the MoNA, we use VTS to engage students and general visitors with art, encouraging them to observe closely, think critically and discuss respectfully; however, VTS can be effectively used across curricula. This approach teaches its participants how to take the time to observe closely, describe what they see in detail and provide evidence for their observations. Students learn that their reflections and thoughts are valued and appreciated in this inclusive teaching method.

In order to facilitate a VTS discussion, you first encourage viewers to take a quiet moment to observe the work you are going to explore. Then you ask the following questions and paraphrase the responses without adding any of your own judgements. You can insert additional vocabulary and point to specific parts of the artwork.

What's going on in this picture?

What do you see that makes you say...?

What more can you find?

Visual Thinking Strategy Links

If you are interested in learning more about VTS, [here is their website](#). If you already know and love VTS, but want help finding great images to use in your classroom, here is a [fantastic gallery](#). You can also visit this website for additional resources: www.monamuseum.org/resources-for-educators

About the Artist: Alfredo Arreguín



Image Credit: University of Washington Magazine

Alfredo Arreguín is a Mexican-American painter and celebrated artist in the Pacific Northwest.

Born in Morelia, Mexico, Arreguín began his art career as the youngest student at the Morelia School of Fine Art and continued his career in Mexico until moving to the United States in 1959. Arreguín then attended the University of Washington for undergraduate and graduate studies in fine arts.

Arreguín is known for his magical realism and his work has been exhibited in many notable collections.

“I love all colors and every one of my paintings has something I like. It is like my children, each one of them has something I like, and although they all are wonderful and different gifts, I love them equally.”

-Alfredo Arreguín



Washingtonia, Alfredo Arregun
Image Source: Forterra.org