

Japanese Art

Art

Year 5/6

Lesson 3 of 7

Learning Objective		Resources
To know about the importance of light and dark in artwork		Slides Expansion of the Square Instruction Sheet A/B Evaluation Cards 15cm squares of black paper A4 and 35cm squares of white paper Scissors, glue Notan in Composition Information Sheet (FSD? activity only) Notan Rectangle Cards (FSD? activity only) Japanese Scene Cards (FSD? activity only)
Teaching Input		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain that Notan is a Japanese design idea which focuses on the amount of light and dark space within an artwork, and where these areas are placed in relation to each other. The word Notan literally means 'light-dark balance'. What do we mean by 'space' in a piece of artwork? Tell the children that space is the area above, below, between, within and around the objects in an artwork. The space within the shapes or forms in an artwork is called positive space. The space around the shapes or forms in an artwork is called negative space. Ask them to identify the positive and negative spaces in the image shown on the slide. Still looking at the same image, explain that positive and negative space, or light and dark, have equal importance within an artwork. They should complement each other, with neither dominating the other. There needs to be a feeling of balance. Do you think this image is balanced? Explain that the placement of light and dark areas in an artwork is an important element of Notan. Balance between the positive and negative spaces can be achieved through a symmetrical or asymmetrical design. Tell them that Notan focuses on two elements of art: line and shape. The shapes can be geometric or organic. Ask children to identify the geometric and organic shapes in the images on the slide. What have you learnt about the Japanese concept of Notan? Encourage children to discuss what they understand about the concept with a partner. Use the following slide to emphasise the main points. Explain that the Expansion of the Square exercise helps artists to study the interaction of positive and negative space. Use the pictures on the slides to show children how to create a Notan. 		
Main Activity		
Lower ability: Children use Expansion of the Square Instruction Sheet A to create a Notan design on the 15cm square paper with one line of symmetry (either horizontal or vertical). Once completed, they stick it on an A4 white piece of paper.	Middle ability: Children use Expansion of the Square Instruction Sheet B to create a Notan design on the 15cm square paper with two lines of symmetry (horizontal and vertical). Once completed, they stick it onto a 35cm square white piece of paper.	Higher ability: Children use Expansion of the Square Instruction Sheet B to create a Notan design on the 15cm square paper with two lines of symmetry (horizontal and vertical). Encourage children to experiment with geometric and organic shapes, as well as symmetrical and asymmetrical design.
Once completed, children can use the Evaluation Cards to discuss their artwork with a partner.		
Fancy something different...?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children read the Notan in Composition Information Sheet to find out how artists can use Notan to improve the composition of their artwork. Using the Japanese Scene Cards and the Notan Rectangle Cards, children follow the instructions on the Information Sheet to create their own Notan drawings. 		
Plenary	Assessment Questions	
Display the poem by Lao Tzu, the ancient Eastern philosopher. How does this relate to the design concept of Notan? Think, pair, then share your ideas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do children understand the concept of Notan? Do children understand the importance of light and dark in a piece of artwork? Can children create their own piece of artwork following the principles of Notan? 	