

GRAFIX® LESSON PLAN SERIES

Lesson 14: Illuminated Letter with Grafix Vellum.

Created by Kirby Meng.



Illuminated Letter with Grafix Vellum

Many surviving illuminated manuscripts date from the Middle Ages, Renaissance and mostly religious content. Often the first letter of a passage is drawn with extreme embellishment. Sometimes borders are included on pages and miniature illustrations may be added. In the 13th century, some secular texts were also illuminated. Manuscripts important enough to illuminate were written on the best quality parchment called vellum.

The introduction of printing led to a huge decline in the production of illuminated manuscripts. Letters, monograms and family names remain a popular theme in art throughout history and even today are a wonderful addition to artistic study.

OBJECTIVES

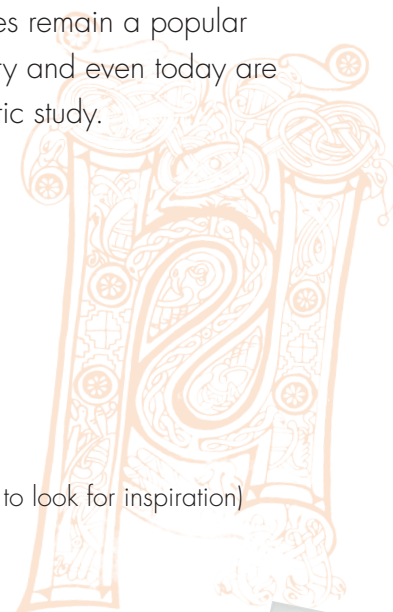
Students will design an illuminated letter, by embellishing the letter with designs and pictures that have personal meaning to them. They will add color to create an interesting and vibrant letter that could be used to begin an important text. They will learn connection between meanings through text or elaborate monograms with the historical context of illuminated letters and manuscripts. Students will display student art and reflect on the artistic process by evaluation.

For grade levels 5-12.

Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 20-30 students. Adjust as needed.

MATERIALS

- Sketchbook for practice
- **Grafix Vellum**
- Pencil and eraser
- Permanent marker
- Wax based colored pencils
- The Book of Kells (great place to look for inspiration)



Grafix Vellum

Grafix Vellum is acid free and ideal for journaling, layering and combining with your other paper craft favorites. Available in pads and packs.





STEP 4



STEP 5



STEP 7

DIRECTIONS

1. Start with a block letter, using the initial of the first, middle or last name.
2. Alter the block letter to make it more interesting in some way.
3. Add designs and embellishments to make an interesting and meaningful work of art. Incorporate drawings and designs that have personal meaning.
4. Sketch onto Grafix Vellum in your choice of color/finish.
5. Trace the lines of the design with a permanent marker.
6. Erase over the entire design to get rid of any stray pencil lines.
7. Add color with wax based colored pencils or the medium of your choosing.
8. Display all illuminated letters and discuss how letters and monograms have been important throughout history.

NEW ART STANDARDS – ARTISTIC PROCESSES:

Creating: Conceiving and developing new artistic ideas or work.

Presenting: Interpreting and sharing artistic work.

Responding: Understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning.

Connecting: Relating artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.



Additional illuminated letter examples