



Looks Like Stone

Project Overview:

This project is a follow-up to the Faux Stained Glass Window. Students were interested in the frames, which I made out of a combination of paper pulp and thin-set mortar. A discussion of various building materials and authenticity/imitation evolved.

For this project, students will be manipulating pre-mixed paper pulp onto a paper plate. The plate just holds the pulp in a solid form. They then use tiny clay cutters, or small cookie cutters to stamp patterns into the surface. They can think of symmetry, pattern, texture, and involve some narrative imagery. Small contrasting objects, like pebbles, or fish tank rocks can be added for texture. After the pulp dries, it can be painted.

Objectives:

- Students will look at various architectural materials that are used to support stained glass windows; stone, wood, concrete, etc.
- Discussion of authenticity and imitation.
- Students will use paper pulp with an underlying structure to form disks with pattern.
- Ideas of symmetry, pattern, texture, etc.

Discussion:

Look at the object above. What do you think the material is? It looks like several different familiar things - stone, concrete. It's actually made of a combination of ground up paper and a type of concrete.

What does that material tell you? Does it make the object more interesting or surprising? Does it make it more

relatable? Is the entire object fake? If you brought this to a cathedral where there were real stained glass windows how would it look? Probably kind of funny. But, here in the classroom, it's out of context - not where it belongs - so maybe it looks a bit more convincing.

Materials:

- Cellu-clay papier-mache
- Bucket
- Paper plates
- Cookie cutters - or preferably, tiny clay cutters in various patterns
- Rocks/gravel/fish tank pebbles
- Tempera paint
- Brushes

Process:

- 1) Before class period, mix celluclay in large bucket with enough water for a clay-like consistency
- 2) Give each student a paper plate with blob of pulp on it.
- 3) Students can spread the clay out to cover the plate in an even layer
- 4) Hand out clay cutters for stamping patterns.
- 5) Pebbles can be stuck into pulp now.
- 6) Pulp needs to dry 24-48 hours depending on humidity levels.
- 7) When dry, students can paint the forms.

TEKS:

Mathematics:

111.4. (B1), (B8)

Science:

112.13. (B5), (B7)

Fine Art:

117.108. (B1), (B2), (B3), (B4)

Student Examples:



