

### Exploring Construction : Levels 2 - 5

#### Achievement Objectives and Strands

##### Developing Practical Knowledge in the Visual Arts

- through experiences in two and three dimensional media
- by identifying, selecting and using structural and visual effects to solve problems and communicate ideas
- by organising and arranging their ideas

##### Developing Ideas in the Visual Arts

- through imagination and invention with different materials
- through solving problems and working individually and collaboratively in making constructions

##### Essential Skills

- Social and Cooperative Skills
- Problem Solving Skills
- Self Management Skills

##### Curriculum Levels : 2-5

#### TEACHER NOTES

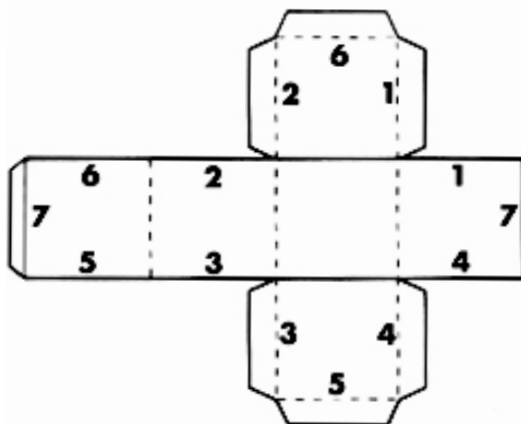
In this series of three activities we explore starter activities to introduce your students to construction ranging from colourful cubes to card free standing sculptures.

Using imagination, design techniques and construction, your students can turn their classroom into a vibrant, colourful and stimulating environment.

#### PROJECT ONE – A Colony of Cubes

##### You Will Need

- Before you start you will need paper, manila cardboard, paints, pencils, scissors and the plan (see below).



- Draw the plan on paper or cardboard to the scale of the size of cubes you wish to make or make different sized plans for smaller and larger cubes.
- Have students cut out their plans along the firm lines. Tell them the dotted lines are for folding.
- Students assemble their cube and glue together using the tabs of the plan.
- Students decorate their cubes using different colours, patterns and textures on different faces of the cubes or perhaps two colours and patterns can be taken from face to face.
- Introduce the idea of establishing a colony of space creatures (the cubes) by hanging them all together in one area of the classroom or corridor.
- Introduce the idea of contrast using
  - colour of cubes
  - sizes of cubes
  - hanging cubes at different heights
  - hanging cubes at different angles (two strings used).

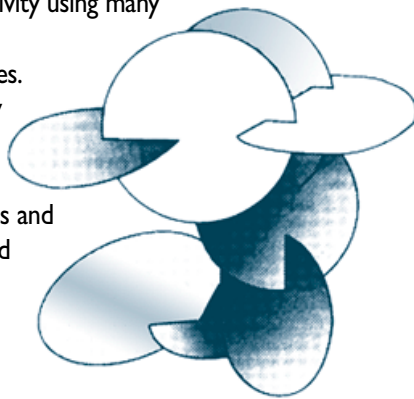
#### PROJECT TWO – Cardboard Sculptures

##### Free Standing Shapes

- Before you start the students will need scissors, manila card, PVA, paints and brushes.
- Each student chooses one basic shape as the basis of their free standing sculpture, eg
  - square      - rectangle
  - circle        - triangle
- Students cut out a minimum of 10 shapes, each of approximately the same size (the larger the size the larger the sculpture).
- The challenge is to assemble the two dimensional shapes by cutting slots into the sides of the shapes and assembling them into a 3 dimensional and free standing sculpture.
- Students should paint and/or decorate the shapes before they are slotted and glued together.
- Start by placing two shapes together with the slots meeting and push them together.
- Interlock the shapes along the full length of the slot for extra strength.
- Build up the constructions until an interesting arrangement has been completed.

### Extension Activities

- Challenge students to give their sculpture an interesting name. Make a name plaque and include the name of the artist and the date completed on the plaque.
- Sculptures can be hung as mobiles or placed on the floor or display tables.
- Try as a group activity using many different shapes.
- Try irregular shapes.
- Make a hall display of free standing sculptures and invite other classes and parents to visit and enjoy.



- Coloured paper and cellophane can be added to decorate the buildings.
- Make neon signs and cardboard traffic lights.
- Cut out cardboard people (with a base) to fill the streets.
- Add cardboard trees, cardboard buses, radio masts, papier and mache hills. Even planes and helicopters can be suspended above the city.

### Extension Activities

- Groups can record traffic sounds and people sounds on tape as a background to their construction.
- Play this tape when other classes and parents are invited to experience the city.
- Combine all group cities into a major hall display.

## PROJECT THREE – A Box Cylinder City

### Before Starting

- You will need a large collection of boxes, cartons and cylinders or various shapes and sizes, PVA, staples, cans and manila card.
- Try this as a group activity.

### Planning it out.

- Have each group lay out a large area of paper on the floor to act as the base.
- Make this the road map of the city.
- Each group spends some time experimenting by arranging their boxes, cans and cylinders on to the road map as different types of ...
  - buildings
  - houses
  - high rise skyscrapers
  - office blocks
  - bridges
  - parking buildings etc.
- Mark where these buildings will be on the city base and paint in the following:
  - roads
  - lakes
  - container wharf
  - streets and lanes etc.
  - park areas
  - harbour
  - airport
- Combine and construct the boxes, cans and cylinders into different shapes to make these buildings.
- Students should paint the buildings as they go.

### Assessment

- Students are showing imagination and are willing to take risks when using new materials
- Students are showing increasing confidence and skills in using a variety of new materials
- Students are showing ability to solve problems associated with construction including combining of materials
- Students are able to work cooperatively in developing combined visual presentations
- Students can express how constructions and objects can be arranged to convey and communicate visual impressions