

ZOOMORPHIC TILES

AN EXPLORATION OF ISLAMIC CALLIGRAPHY IN ANIMAL FORM
ART AND LANGUAGE ARTS

GRADE: 7TH

BASED ON



Zoomorphic Calligraphic Design that reads "In the Name of God, the Benevolent, the Merciful"
dated 1713, with later additions in Iran
ink on paper under wax coating
1977.65

OBJECTIVES

- Students will be able to identify the different roles that calligraphy played in Islamic art.
- Students will be able to create a Zoomorphic tile featuring a letter and an animal using the additive and subtractive methods of handbuilding.
- Students will enhance their Zoomorphic tile using clay glazes.

CONCEPT

Calligraphy has many uses in the Islamic world. Architecture and objects of everyday use were inscribed with many decorative and elaborate designs. Zoomorphic designs are designs that create the shape of an animal. Zoomorphic calligraphy design takes words and shapes them into the form of an animal.

MATERIALS

- Clay
- Clay tools
- Clay rolling pins
- Clay mats
- Slip
- Pencil
- 7" x 7" Drawing Paper
- Islamic calligraphy examples of zoomorphic images
- iPads
- Water bowl
- Water
- Paintbrushes
- Clay Glazes

VOCABULARY

Zoomorphic - having the form of an animal

Additive process- process of creating sculpture by adding material to the work

Subtractive process- involves removing material to create a finished work

PROCEDURE

1. Introduce Zoomorphic calligraphy using Google Slides.
2. Demonstrate the use of the additive and subtractive process in clay.
3. Students will use iPads to draw two designs with one of their initials using the concept of Zoomorphic calligraphy.
4. Students will roll out clay slabs using clay rolling pins on clay mats.
5. Students will cut out letters using clay tools.
6. Students will score, slip and smooth the letter to add on to the main slab.
7. Students will use the additive or subtractive process to create details on the Zoomorphic tile.
8. Students will unify the design with variety, patterns, repetition and a center of interest.
9. Let tile dry and fire finished piece in kiln.
10. Students will glaze their fired piece using a light, medium and dark color glaze to enhance the additive and subtractive features.
11. Students will add a name label to their Zoomorphic tile and will display it in the hallway.
12. Students will write an artist statement based on their Zoomorphic tile and their reasoning for choosing their particular animal and process for creating the tile.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment will be based on:

- 3 sketches
- Final design which shows the use of balance, variety, repetition, texture, center of interest and unity
- Use of additive and subtractive techniques
- Limited color scheme
- Creativity
- Craftsmanship
- Effort/use of class time

NATIONAL STANDARDS

Visual Arts:

1. Demonstrate persistence in developing skills with various materials, methods, and approaches in creating works of art or design.
2. Reflect on and explain important information about personal artwork in an artist statement or another format.

Language Arts:

1. Uses the general skills and strategies of the writing process.

RESOURCES

Zoomorphic Calligraphy

<https://www.wired.com/2007/01/zoomorphic-call/>

<http://www.lesartsturcs.org/calligraphy/>

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EXAMPLES OF STUDENT WORK

