

Title: Amate Art

Grade Level: K-5

Objective: Students will learn about and create a vibrant art work in the style of the indigenous people of Mexico.



Lesson Plan

Materials: kraft paper (cut into letter sized sheets), or brown construction paper or chipboard, pencils, chalk or oil pastels, or crayons, black markers. You can also choose to use paint instead of pastels/crayons

Opening Activity: Teach students about the origin of AMATE painting. The Mexican tradition of making and painting tree bark paper is known as amate bark painting. It's an intriguing folk art is also a living link to the ancient civilizations of Mexico's past. Amate comes from the Nahuatl word amatl (paper). The Nahua lived throughout central Mexico. You may also know them by the name of the largest Nahuatl-speaking empire: the Aztecs. Learn more about Amate Painting HERE: <https://youtu.be/BAV8oLU-Fml>

Core Activity:

- Distribute the paper and pencils and have students draw a simple image of a palm tree, flower, bird or a flowering tree branch.
- Have them retrace the image with white crayon or pastel.
- Then fill in the drawings with vibrant colors and retrace the outside edges with black markers.

Reflection: As students help clean up the space, invite them to consider how their lives might change if they needed to make each piece of paper they wanted to use. Would they be more careful when drawing or writing if each piece of paper they used took a full hour or so to make? Why or why not?