

Unit: Positive/Negative Space

Lesson: Positive/Negative Bugs

Grade Level: 7th Grade

Intro:

Does a negative space have shape? Positive and negative space plays an important role in determining the overall composition in a work of art. By understanding positive and negative space and applying your knowledge, you can become more successful in designing your compositions. Students will enjoy this fun lesson that focuses on bugs as the primary subject matter. In this exercise, the students will explore the relationship between positive and negative space. After all, one can't exist without the other.

What is Positive and Negative Space?

Simply put, positive space is best described as the areas in a work of art that are the subjects, or areas of interest. Negative space is area around the subjects, or areas of interest.

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Learn about positive and negative space and negative space reversal.
- Create an artwork using positive/negative space reversal.
- Create an original design that uses the entire paper space.

Vocabulary:

Positive space

Negative space

Geometric shapes

Pattern

Materials:

- 1/2 inch squares newsprint or copy paper
- 18 inch squares good quality white paper
- Sharpie markers and fat permanent markers
- Pencils
- Books with pictures of bugs and insects of all kinds:

Procedure:

1. Choose a bug from the ones provided by the teacher.
2. Trace at least 8 bugs of those bugs so that they fill up a 12"X18" inch piece of drawing paper. Trace them exactly how they are on the paper. DO NOT OVERLAP THEM.
3. Choose a geometric pattern. (Square, triangle or circle)
4. Trace shape on large square placing them randomly, and in lots of different directions, with at least one shape overlapping each bug.
5. Darken in the bugs with a black sharpie in the bugs on the large pattern with space reversal. Darken all areas of the bug OUTSIDE the shapes the same as your positive pattern (how it looks like the one you chose at the beginning). All areas INSIDE the shape should be darkened in the exact opposite.

