LESSON PLAN

KITE

Suggested Levels: Grades 3 - Advanced
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Students create a slab, diamond-shaped ceramic kite divided into four sections-each featuring a contrasting texture, pattern, or color. Through carving, stamping, and found-object impressions, they explore surface design while learning to recognize symmetry and fractions in their artwork. Glaze can be used to enhance texture and contrast, bringing the design to life.

OBJECTIVES

I CAN... construct a slab-based, diamond-shaped kite.

I CAN... divide my kite into four equal sections and apply different textures to each.

I CAN... apply glaze to emphasize visual texture and contrast.

I CAN... describe how fractions and symmetry appear in my design.

NATIONAL VISUAL ART STANDARDS

Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

- Use experimentation and planning to make informed choices.
- Sketch and plan textures and colors for each kite quadrant.

Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

- Use composition, form, and texture to express visual ideas.
- Students divide their kites into four textured sections using fraction-based design.

Convey meaning through presentation of artistic work.

- Art can communicate meaning through design and symbolism.
- Students present and discuss how their textures and fractions communicate visual balance and story.

SUPPLY LIST

CLAY

- Clay body of choice

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Needle tools
- Ribs
- Carving/modeling tools
- Slip and scoring tools
- Brushes
- Sponges

MISCELLANEOUS

- Rolling pin or slab rollers
- Tools for texture (stamps, combs, mesh, natural items)
- Ruler or straight edge

COLORS BY MAYCO

Stroke & Coat offers vibrant colors with endless ways to mix, layer, and create something truly as unique as each of your students. And bonus! Stroke & Coat can be applied to leather-hard or wet clay, as well as bisque. Stroke and Coats are all AP-approved for use by artists of all ages.

Accomodations

- Provide pre-drawn kite templates.
- Offer texture mats or stamps for easy impressions.
- Include step-by-step visual guides.

Teacher Tips

- Emphasize distinct textures in each quadrant.
- Integrate math by labeling quadrants (¼ each).
- Encourage balance and symmetry to connect visual design with mathematical understanding.

MEET THE MASTER

Kites were first made in China about 3,000 years ago! People used silk for the sail and bamboo for the frame. At first, kites weren't just for fun. They were used for important jobs like assisting the military and for special celebrations. Over time, kite making spread all around the world and were used in many creative ways.

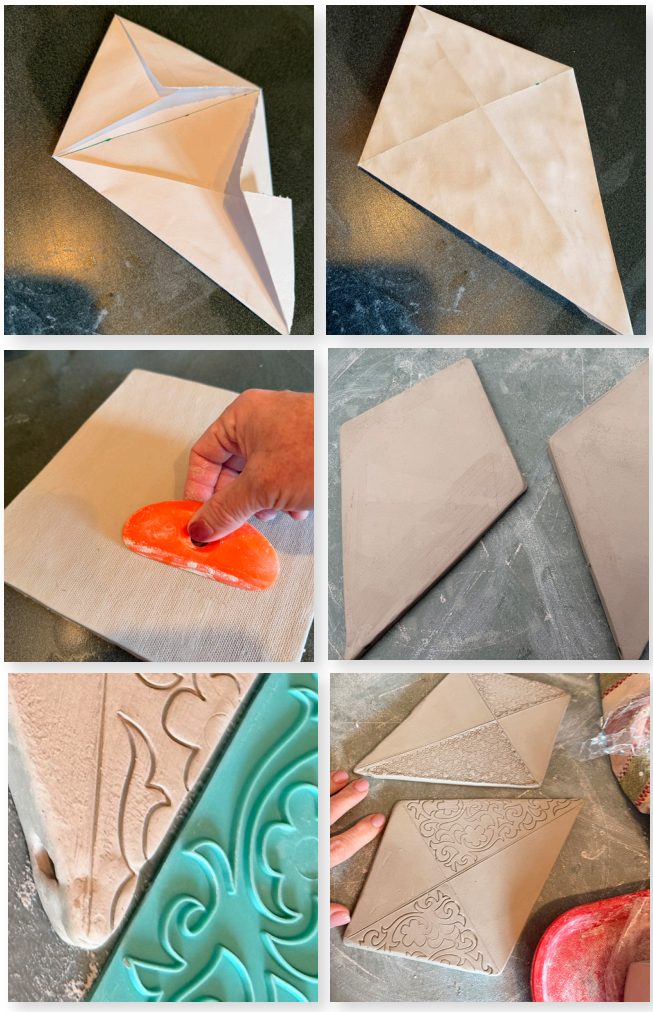
- 6th century: Kites were popular in China for celebrations and special events.
- 1700s: Scientists used kites to study weather and wind.
- 1752: Benjamin Franklin used a kite and key to discover that lightning is made of electricity.
- World War I: Kites helped carry equipment high into the air.
- World War II: Soldiers practiced marksmanship by shooting at kites.
- Today: Kites are used for fun, art, sports, science, and even taking photos from the sky!

Connection: Students see kites as both artistic and engineered forms-connecting storytelling, math, and visual design.

DIRECTIONS - CLAY BUILDING PROCESS

Method 1

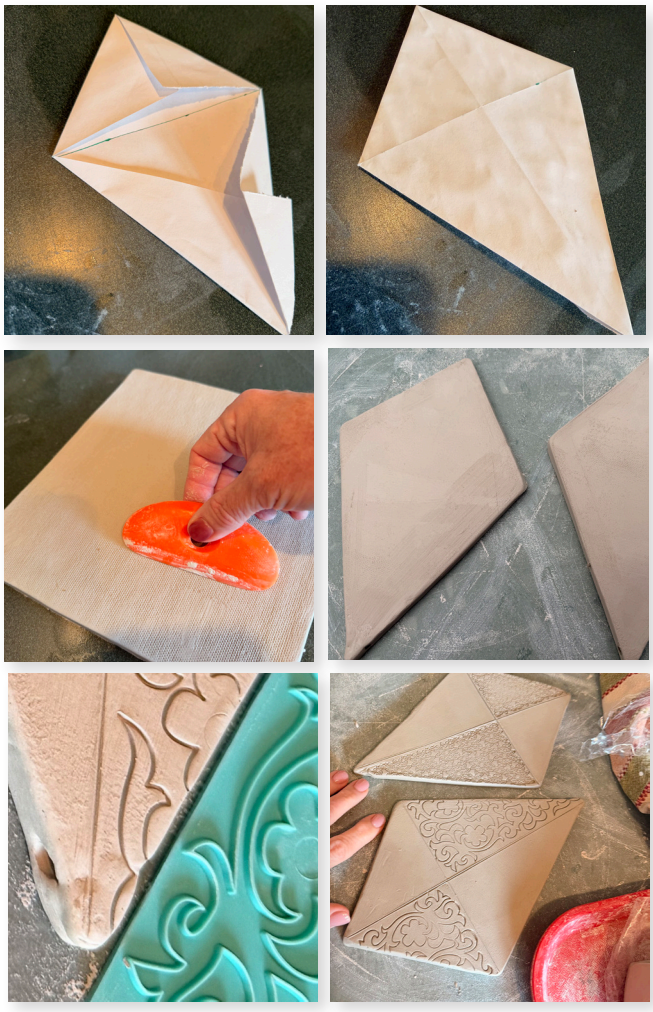
1. Create a paper template of a triangular kite using the suggestions below to get the proportions correct.
2. Roll a slab of clay approximately ½ inch thick and just a little larger than your paper template. Using a rib or plastic card, compress the clay slab to strengthen it and create a smooth uniform surface by removing texture left from rolling.
3. Place your paper template on your slab of clay and trace it. (photo shows 2 kites being created so show texture and color options)
4. After creating two lines to represent the horizontal and vertical axes, use texture plates or found objects to press into the clay on opposites sides of the kite. The untextured side of the kite will be the perfect place to explore bubble glazing.
5. Use a needle or small hole cutter to make a hole at the tail end of the kite for adding a ribbon/string tail. Option to add another hole at the top of the kite for hanging purposes.
6. Optional: For a stable, basic two-stick diamond or Delta kite, the critical ratio is the placement of the cross-spar at about one-third of the way down the vertical spar. The key "angle" for stability is ensuring the two diagonals cross at a perpendicular 90-degree angel. Although we won't be adding sticks or actually flying our kites it is important to have the vertical and horizontal placements in the proper locations to ensure the kite looks proportionate therefore more realistic.



DIRECTIONS - CLAY BUILDING PROCESS

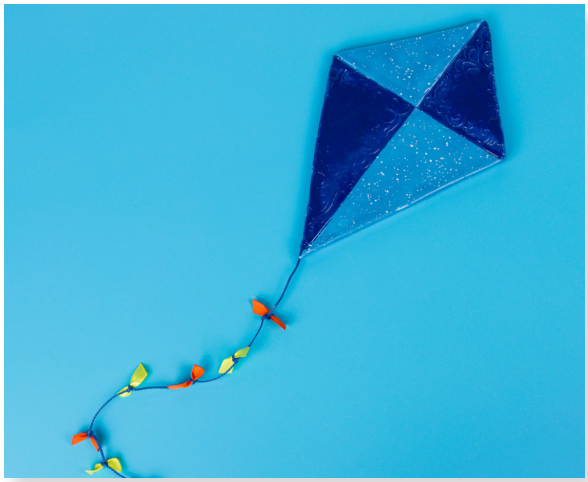
Method 2

1. Roll out a slab of clay that will fit two of the kite patterns and compress both sides of the clay slab with the plastic card.
2. Outline the kite pattern close to one edge of the clay slab and cut out the kite shape.
3. Following the marks on the pattern, slice out the small triangles on the wings and slip and score the wings back together to create the 3D bend on the kite wings.
4. Cut the remaining part of the slab out to create a "ground" for the kite to fit on.
5. Texture the cut ground slab by pouncing the bristles of the DB804 Flat brush into the soft clay.
6. Slip and score the tips and back of the kite down to the ground slab so the kite sites up at an angle.
7. Roll out a long thin coil of clay and lay it out on the slab, coiling it around like a kite tail would lay on the ground and attach one end to the center of the kite.
8. Flatten two smaller coils and fold them onto each other to create the two wrist strap handles of the kite. Slip and score them to the base.
9. Allow the project to fully dry and bisque fire to cone 04.



DIRECTIONS - DECORATING PROCESS

Apply colorful Stroke & Coat and Speckled Stroke & Coat glazes to make the kite stand out!



EXTEND THE LEARNING *using Gardner's Multiple Intelligences Theory*

LINGUISTIC (Word Smart)	Write a short story about your kite's imagery or meaning.
SPATIAL (Picture Smart)	Sketch your kite from differing views.
INTERPERSONAL (People Smart)	Partner up to discuss which textures create balance.
BODY KINESTHETIC (Body Smart)	Use tools and hand movements to impress textures.
NATURALIST (Nature Smart)	Design a kite inspired by patterns in nature.
LOGICAL/ MATHEMATICAL (Number Smart)	Use fractions to describe and calculate kite divisions.
INTRAPERSONAL (Self Smart)	Reflect on which texture represents your personality.
MUSIC (Music Smart)	Listen to rhythmic music while designing; let rhythm inspire your texture patterns.

RUBRIC

	ADVANCED (5 PTS)	PROFICIENT (4 PTS)	DEVELOPING (3 PTS)	BEGINNING (1-2 PTS)
CRAFTSMANSHIP	Smooth, strong slab, precise edges	Mostly neat, minor issues	Uneven edges or cracks	Incomplete/weak slab
CREATIVITY	Unique story, excellent texture variety	Good variety and visual interest	Some variety, theme unclear	Minimal textures or unclear design
TEXTURE & PATTERN	Four distinct sections, clear contrast	Good variation	Limited contrast in quadrants	Minimal or no texture
SURFACE DESIGN AND GLAZING	Enhances texture & strong contrast	Consistent application	Uneven or inconsistent glazing	Missing or poor glaze
EFFORT AND ENGAGEMENT	Fully engaged, thoughtful revisions	Good effort	Partial completion	Minimal effort

Total Score: _____/25

PERFORMANCE LEVELS

5 POINTS (A): ADVANCED

4 POINTS (B): PROFICIENT

3 POINTS (C): DEVELOPING

2 POINTS (D): BEGINNING

1 POINTS (F): EMERGING