

Be a Craftsman!

Core Requirements

SOCIAL STUDIES

6040-0202

FINE ARTS

1040-0101

1040-0402

Note

Several craft projects are suggested in this lesson as alternatives for you and your students to choose from.

Objectives

Students will:

- ✗ Review examples of craftsmanship observed in the mansion.
- ✗ Experiment with one of several craft options.
- ✗ Relate their craft experiences to those of the craftsmen who worked on the Kearns Mansion restoration.

Student Instruction



Display Clue 16, *Craftsmen in the Mansion*. Remind students of the definition of “craftsman.” Have students brainstorm all the examples of craftsmanship they observed in the Kearns Mansion.

Ask students: *Have you ever wanted to be a craftsman?*

Why or why not?

Student Activity/Product Options



Allow students to select one of the craft projects described below.

Tell students: *The craftsmen who worked on the mansion spent a lot of time making sure their work was the best it could be. When you begin your project remember to take the time to plan and draw your design. The artwork will only be as good as the design. Do not hurry the project.*



When students have completed their projects, ask the class:

What was difficult or frustrating? What was interesting or rewarding? How long did it take you to finish your project? How long do you think it would take to do a similar project in the Kearns Mansion?



Tell students that craftsmen still do all these jobs today. Many craftsmen worked on the restoration of the Kearns Mansion after the fire. Ask students: *Would you like to be one of these craftsmen?*

Why or why not?

Materials



Craftsmen in the Mansion
—make overhead—

Soap Carving:



Carve Your Initials in Soap instruction sheet
—1 per student doing soap carving—

- ✓ Ivory soap, small carving knives or tools, graph paper, and newspaper

Plaster Decoration Simulation:

- ✓ Cookies, frosting & cake decorators or tubes of frosting

Mosaics:

- ✓ Graph paper, colored paper, glue, and scissors

Stencils:

- ✓ Graph paper, markers or crayons
- Optional: sheets of oak tag or plastic, paint*

Craft Project Options

Carve Your Initials in Soap

Have students bring a large bar of ivory soap from home. Explain that Thomas Kearns was proud of his home and placed his initials throughout the house. The design did not just happen but was a special combination of T and K. Use Thomas Kearns' initials as a model and create your own design using your own initials. Distribute *Carve Your Initials in Soap* Instruction Sheet and follow instructions for the carving process.

Plaster Decoration

Explain that some decorations in the mansion were created by adding material instead of carving it away. The flower design on the informal dining room ceiling was created using a method similar to decorating a cake. Instead of frosting, craftsmen used plaster. Have students try making flowers with a cake decorator. Use frosting and create designs on cookies.

Floor Mosaics

Students create a mosaic design such as the one on the floor of the Kearns Mansion entry. Students draw their design on graph paper and decide which colors to use. Then they cut out small squares of colored paper and glue the tiny squares onto black paper to create the mosaic design.

Stencils

Explain that stencils are still used today to create a pattern that repeats again and again. Stencils were used instead of wall paper in the mansion. Stenciling took a lot of time. A cut-out pattern was laid against the wall. Paint was dabbed through the stencil. It would dry and then a new section would be painted.

Have students design an interesting pattern that could be used on a floor, wall, or ceiling. Use graph paper to create the design. Color the graph paper designs. If possible, create stencils by tracing graph paper designs on to sheets of plastic or oak tag and cutting them out. Place the stencil on a paper and sponge paint onto the paper through the stencil.

Extensions

→ Create a *Kearns Mansion Art Corner* where students can display their craft projects.

Links

Lesson 5: *Buildings Begin with Basic Shapes* Pre-Tour

Lesson 6: *South Temple Styles* Pre-Tour

Craftsmen in the Mansion





Carve your initials in soap

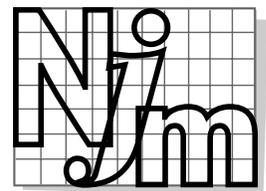
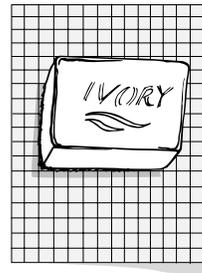
Thomas Kearns created a design with his initials and had it placed all over his house. When you see the TK you think of Thomas Kearns. Try making a design with your own initials. Draw your initials in a creative way. After you find the right design, carve it into a bar of soap.

A sculpture that is connected to a background instead of being carved all around is called a “bas relief.” Bas relief sculpture has some high parts where very little material is cut away and some low parts where much more material is cut away. The carvings on the columns in the Grand Hall of the Kearns Mansion are a good example of bas relief sculpture. Your soap carving of your initials will also be a bas relief sculpture.

Here's what to do . . .

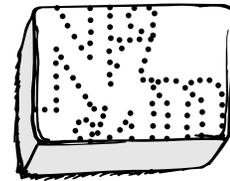
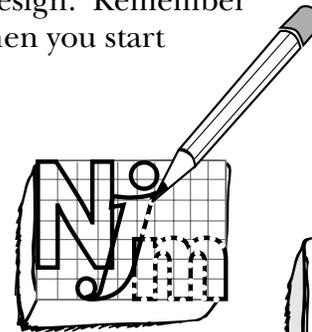
1. Make a Design

- Start with a bar of Ivory soap. Trace the outline of the soap onto a piece of graph paper.
- Cut out the soap outline you traced on the graph paper.
- Draw your initial design on the rectangle of graph paper you cut out. Use the edges of the paper to help create the design. Remember to make the letters thick so they won't break when you start carving. Take your time to get the design right.



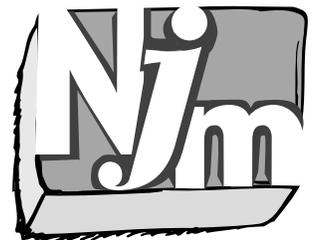
2. Block the Design

- Place your graph paper on top of the soap.
- Take a sharp pencil and poke hole along the lines of the design to transfer it to the soap. When you remove the paper, the outline of the letters will remain.



3. Carve the Design

- Put some newspaper over your work area to keep it clean.
- Decide which letters you want to be the highest and stand out the most. The tops of these letters won't need much carving. Carve other letters back a little bit. Carve the background the deepest.
- Carve a little at a time.
- Don't carve on the lines of the letters. Carve about 1/4 of an inch outside the lines to keep your letters thick.



Hints:

- Keep the soap in a baggy when you aren't working on it so it will stay soft.
- Keep your tools and soap in a box between carving sessions.