



Crafts Around the World Series

Polish Wycinanki: Traditional cut-paper

Enjoy learning how to make simple crafts from seven continents: **Africa, Antarctica, Europe, Asia, Australia, North America & South America.**

Purpose:

Introduce youth to some simple cultural traditional crafts from around the world. Journey around seven continents, learning how to make simple crafts and having fun creating.

Objectives:

- ◇ Learn the cultural history and origins of the craft.
- ◇ Find the country on a map and/or globe.
- ◇ Develop fine motor skills in paper cutting.
- ◇ Increase cultural awareness and creativity.

Education Standards:

- ◇ Understand the visual arts in relation to history and culture.
- ◇ Apply geometric methods to solve design problems.

Experiential Learning:

- ◇ Create designs cutting with scissors.

Use these phrases:
Do it, What happened,
What's important, So What,
Now What?

Audience: Grades K-12



Photo courtesy of Janis Brinn
Michigan 4-H 2020 Winterfest
participants

CONTINENT: EUROPE

Europe is the sixth largest of the world's continents. Home to 44 countries. Some areas of the world combine Asia and Europe into one continent called Eurasia.

COUNTRY: POLAND

LESSON: POLISH WYCIANKI: TRADITIONAL CUT-PAPER

Wycinanki" pronounced Vee-chee-non-kee is the Polish word for 'paper-cut design'. Wycinanki was traditionally used by Polish peasants to decorate their cottages and they often depicted scenes from daily life, such as weddings or holidays.

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Traditional cut-paper

TIME: 30-45 minutes or multiple days depending upon the interest to learn more.

MATERIALS:

- ◇ Colored Paper (Construction Paper works well)
- ◇ Scissors - Łowicz *cut-outs* were *traditionally* done with sheep shears.
- ◇ X-Acto or hobby knife (only advanced crafter should use for safety)
- ◇ Glue
- ◇ Ruler
- ◇ Pencil (white pencil is drawing on dark paper)
- ◇ Cutting Matt (if using an X-Acto or hobby knife)
- ◇ Optional: Markers or crayons
- ◇ Optional: Samples, templates, patterns and instructions

INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO LINK:

https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/1_kdjzmvya

PROCEDURE: How to make designs cutting paper

- ◇ Do some research and print out a design that inspires you (especially traditional Wycinanki designs like a Rooster) or create your own.
- ◇ Fold the template in half using a dotted line as a guide.
- ◇ Cut out your design (like cutting a snowflake) following the lines.
- ◇ Unfold. The remaining piece is your Wycinanki!
- ◇ Glue your finished Wycinanki onto colored construction paper backing.
- ◇ More advanced—use the X-Acto or hobby knife for cutting fine details. Add by gluing different colored layers and details to your design.

Art Science — Be creative with your design. Experiment with different types of folds, images and other traditional techniques. Create a variety of uses for your designs i.e. decorative snowflakes hanging from the ceiling with string, festive cards, wall hanging, etc. Ask questions & make discoveries!

Research other scissor snipping traditions: German Scherenschnitte, Chinese Hua Yang, Japanese Kirigami, Mexico Otomi Indian cutouts, Papel Picado and Pennsylvania Dutch cutouts

Reflection Questions: What surprised you and why? When were you the most creative, and why do you think that is? What made you curious today? What can you do with what you learned today?

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