

Intended for Grades: 4th grade - adult

Lesson Title: MY IMPRESSION - Creating Personalized Stamps

Lesson Purpose: Students will:

- Gain knowledge about Polynesian designs, shapes, and symbols
- Deepen understanding of connections to the environment and things important
- Create a representation of self

Materials:

- Scissors and contact cement for students to share
For Each Student:
- 1 piece of art foam sheet (est. 4 x 6 inch)
- 1 painter's mixing stick (in paint section of hardware stores)
- Pen
- Student Worksheet (see below)

Lesson Preparation:

NOTE: This lesson builds off of the "My Sign/Symbol-Ku'u Ho'ailona" GPS Advisory lesson. It's suggested that your students do that lesson first, or you can pull elements from that lesson to teach before students draft their stamp design.

1. Create your own stamp to share with the students as an example.
2. Pre-cut the larger pieces of foam into individual size pieces (est. 4x6 inch).
3. Create easy access workstations with pens, scissors and glue.
4. Plan ample space to lay the stamps out to dry.

Estimated Times:

- Introduction to Stamping – 10 minutes
- Introduction to Project Theme: Student Art Stamp based on Hawaiian Art: 20 minutes
- Stamp Design: 50-90 minutes
- Stamp Creation: 30-90 minutes (basic foam stamp); 30-120 minutes (vinyl stamps)
60-300 minutes (bamboo stamp)
- Presentation of Project – 15 minutes

Background Information:

Stamping has been used as a form of art since the earliest of times. Stamping was used in Hawai'i as a means to not only decorate clothing, but to also personalize certain clothing articles. In China, chops (a stamp with the character of your name) were used to sign documents. Even currency is created through a stamping process.

Today in Hawai'i, stamping has again become popularized as a means to help individuals discover themselves. Students are often asked to create visual images that can be duplicated in stamps that represent their environment, their families, their goals and dreams. These stamps are then impressed onto *kihei* (Hawaiian ceremonial garment) and anything else that the student wishes.

Steps:

1. Introduce stamping to students. (See resources listed below for more information.)

2. Introduce the *My Impressions* project by distributing and discussing the Project Guide (see below).
3. Share with students your example of a stamp; discuss meaning and process.
4. Go over the techniques of designing stamps with participants:
 - a. Teach or revisit the GPS lesson My Sign/Symbol- *Ku'u Ho'ailona*, which helps students develop a personal representation.
 - b. Introduce or revisit the concepts of positive and negative space and visual metaphors.
5. Have students draw their simplified designs on their My Impressions worksheet.
6. After reviewing their design and determining that it is achievable by the student, provide the learner with the supplies to start to create their stamp.
7. Allow pieces to dry ideally by laying them on a flat surface till the glue has completely dried.
8. Have the learners stamp something, whether it is their artwork, a t-shirt, or a *kihei*.
9. Have participants share with their peers what their stamp design represents.

Reflection Questions:

What did you learn about yourself while doing this project?
How can you utilize the stamp that you made?

Resources:

Kapa Hawaii: <http://www.kapahawaii.com/hawaiian-kapa-designs-and-patterns.html>

Assessment:

Have students present to class their stamp designs and their stamped object. Use the rubrics attached to assess their presentations in class.

**My Impression ~ Creating Personalized Stamps
Project Guide**

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Steps:

- ___ 1. Identify what represents you. Write answers below for a. through d. Also, figure out what you would like to draw in a Polynesian art style.
(Refer to your My Symbol/Sign-Ku'u Ho'ailona design if you created one)
 - a. Element(s) in nature that you relate to: (I.e.: wind, water, tree or flower, etc.)
 - b. Favorite thing to do
 - c. Something that represents your family
 - d. Something that represents where you come from
- ___ 2. Research how to re-create these impressions in a Polynesian art style, showing positive and negative space; create sketches below in this style for a. through d.
- ___ 3. Using your sketches, combine and arrange a final design on your stamp outline.
- ___ 4. Have your teacher approve your design before cutting out your stamp pieces.
- ___ 5. Get your piece of foam and stamp back (paint stir stick).
- ___ 6. Trace your stamp back on your piece of foam with a pen.
- ___ 7. Redraw your stamp design on your foam pad within your lines. Remember to do it backwards because your stamp will be a mirror image of your design.
- ___ 8. Cut out your design carefully with your scissors.
- ___ 9. Glue your design onto your stamp back. Remember to do it in the mirror image of your original design.
- ___ 10. Allow your stamp to dry well before using it to print.
- ___ 11. To stamp, apply paint evenly to the surface of your stamp. (NOTE: Too much paint = oozes between pieces of your stamp; too little paint = design too faint)
Press your stamp to desired surface firmly and evenly for smooth print.

a. My favorite element is _____ because _____

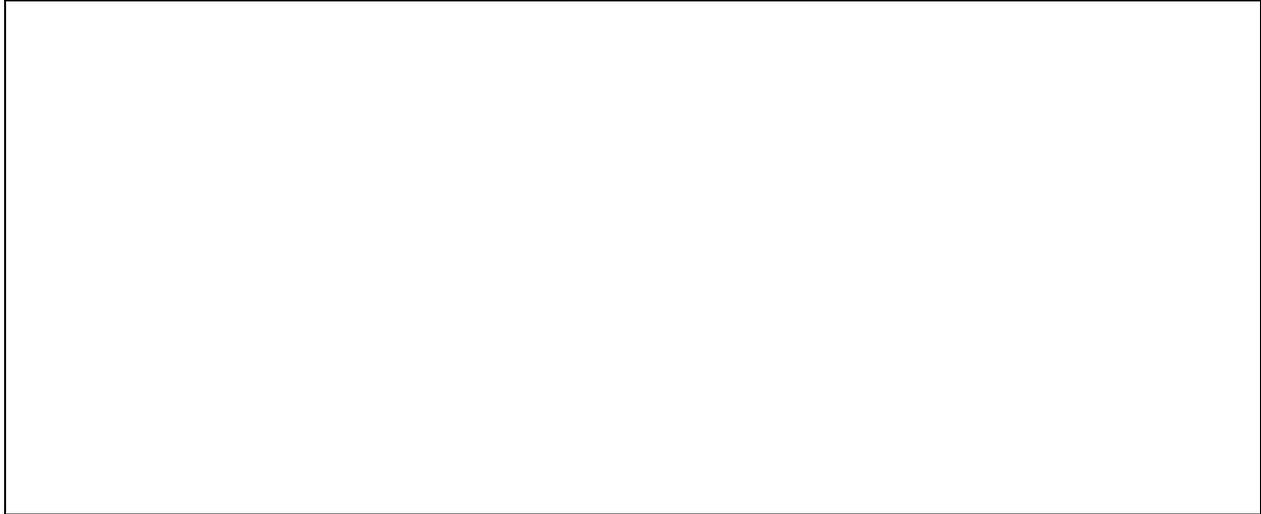
M favorite element and Polynesian style design.

My Impressions Student Project Guide Stamp Design Sheet (page 2/3)

My favorite thing to do is _____ because

_____.

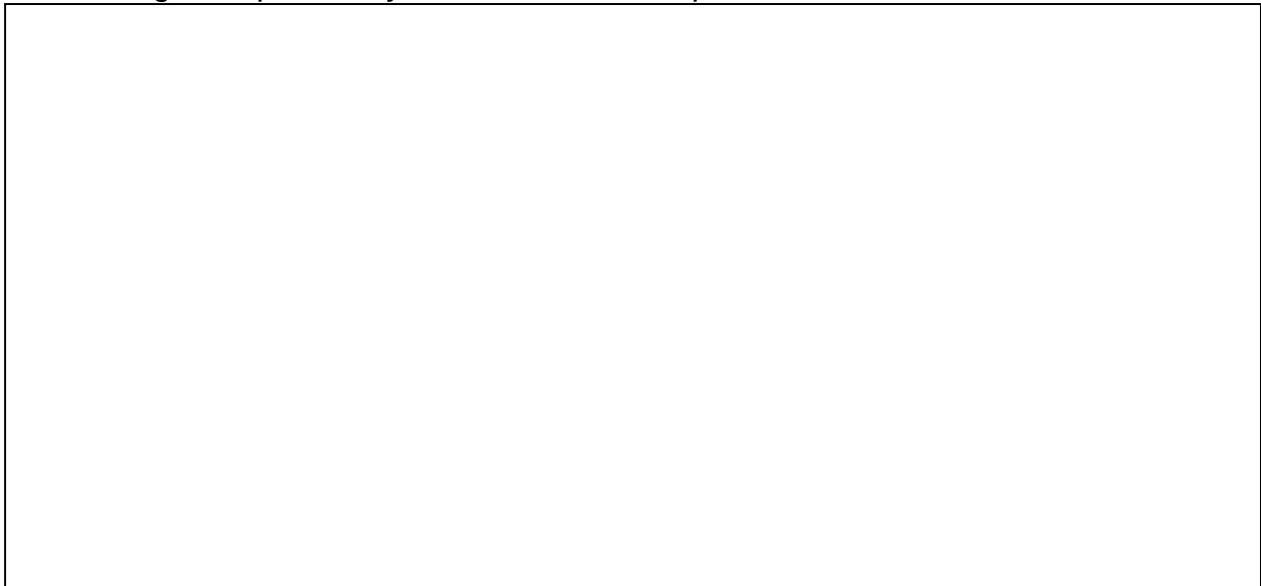
A Polynesian style symbol representing my favorite thing to do:



This image of _____ represents me because _____

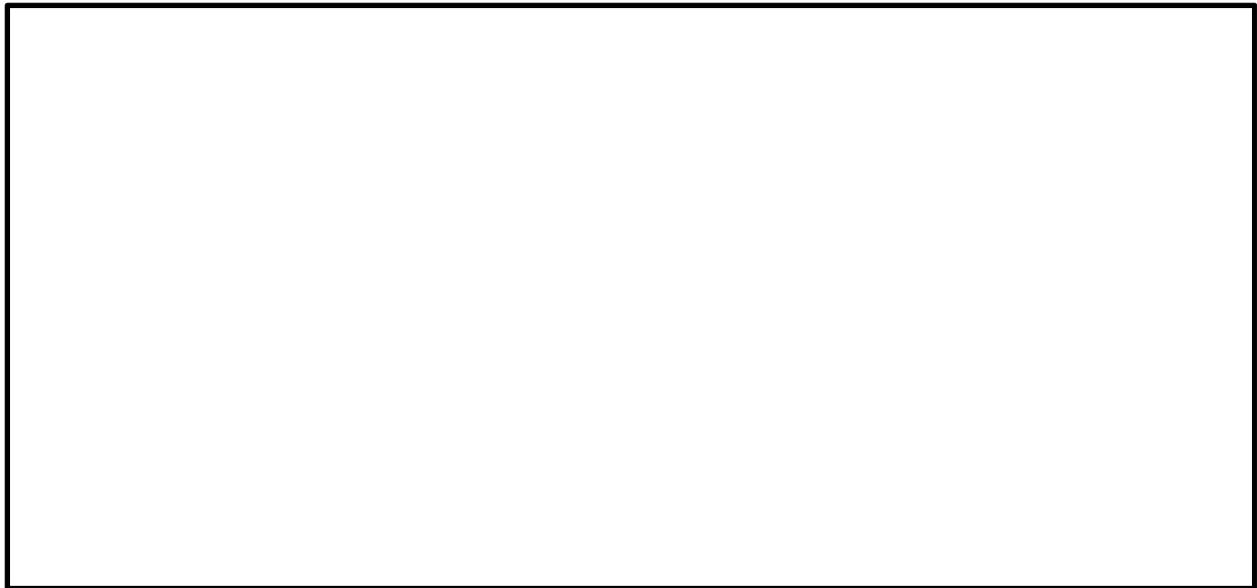
_____.

Something I feel personally connected to that represents me:



Name: _____ Date: _____

Use the space on the top to sketch your stamp design. After you carve your stamp, use the space on the bottom to stamp your final design. Compare what you designed and made.



Assessment Rubric - MY IMPRESSION - Creating Personalized Stamps

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Assessment Questions	Possible Points	Assessed Points
Are 3 different impression images identifiable?		
Are Polynesian art techniques and styles properly utilized?		
Does this drawing show deep thought and intent in the design?		
Was this project successfully completed, from stamp design to implementation or printing?		
Total Points		

Comments: