



materials for the arts

Science: Insect Book Cover

Teacher: Tammy Dong

Lesson Plan: Eric Carle Cover Art

Area: Literacy, Science, and Art

Grade: First Grade

Length: 3 to 4 days

The Big Idea: Our students have been studying insects and becoming bug experts. As experts, they have been working on their nonfiction book about their favorite bug. What better way to entice readers than to create a beautiful cover for their book? One author that knows a little something about insects and art is Eric Carle. He has written many books about the smallest of creatures: *the Hungry Caterpillar* and *The Grouchy Ladybug*. Students will learn how to make a beautiful cover in the style of Eric Carle.

Common Core Learning Standards:

- Writing: Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.
- Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g. explore a number of “how-to” books on a given topic and use them to write a sequence of instructions).
- Create and present a poem, dramatization, art work, or personal response to a particular author or theme studied in class, with support as needed.

Danielson:

- 1a. Demonstrating Knowledge of Content and Pedagogy
- 2a. Creating an Environment of Respect and Rapport
- 2b. Establishing a Culture for Learning
- 3c. Engaging Students in Learning

Learning Targets:

1. Students will be able to identify the materials and procedure used by Eric Carle
2. Students will be able to create their own art image in the Eric Carle style
3. Students will be able to identify paper materials that could be reused and the importance or reusing recycled material

Objective:

Instructional: Students will be able to identify the materials used by Eric Carle, as well as express his procedure for creating art.

Performance: Students will be able to create their cover by using recycled paper, creating new paper, and cutting the paper into shapes for their collage.

Social Emotional: Students will be able to watch a video on Eric Carle, follow teacher led instruction, work cooperatively in small groups, share materials, and create a cover by themselves.



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Materials:

1. Recycled paper: old paper, scrap paper, or pieces of paper in the collage
2. New blank art paper, 9x12 or 12x16
3. Watercolor paint, water, brushes
4. Scissors
5. Glue
6. Cardstock for the cover
7. Samples of Eric Carle's work: picture books from library and classroom big books
8. Smartboard

Literature: The Hungry Caterpillar, The Grouchy Ladybug

Websites: <http://www.eric-carle.com/home.html>

New York City: American Museum of Natural History, Butterfly Exhibit

Prior Knowledge: Many students have read these books before, either for the story or other academic lessons. Yesterday, we reread The Hungry Caterpillar and looked at his pictures. We held a discussion of what we saw, and looked at a video of how Eric Carle makes his pictures.

Teacher Role: The teacher will revisit the stories, and guide students in looking at the author's illustrations. The teacher will also show a video on the author's process, and guide students in understanding his procedure. The teacher will introduce the new procedure and help students create their covers.

Procedure:

1. **Day 1- Reread the Hungry Caterpillar (Prior day)**
2. Discuss what you see in his pictures (Prior day)
3. Show the video on Eric Carle and his procedure (Prior day)
4. **Day 2- Show model of cover**
5. Demonstrate making colored paper with watercolors.
6. Dismiss children to tables to let them make their paper. Each student will make 5 different colors. Students will put their papers in drying rack.
7. Clean up. Papers may need to dry overnight.
8. **Day 3- Demonstrate the next step, which is cutting out shapes to make the image.**
9. Since the watercolor paper is still drying, students will look at insect books to notice insect shapes.
10. Students will draw insect with shapes.
11. Pass out dried colored paper. Also put out collage scrap paper bin. Put out cardstock for the cover. (Students will glue pieces to the cardstock.)
12. Students will work on insect covers.
13. Clean Up
14. **Day 4- the following day or when ready- Students will bind their covers to their nonfiction books.**

Assessment: Observation of student work through anecdotal records

Future Lesson ideas: Self Portraits, mural collage of our class, other pictures in their nonfiction books.