

## Totem Pole Lesson Plan

**Teacher:** Carly Burton

**Title:** Pacific Northwest Totem Poles

**Grade Level:** 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

### **Brief History/ Background:**

Totem Poles are Native American structures that are large carved monuments. They are most commonly found in the Pacific Northwest. The Pacific Northwest is considered western North America bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the west and loosely, by the Rocky Mountains on the east. The Pacific Northwest includes the U.S. states of Oregon and Washington and the Canadian province of British Columbia. Totem poles are carved out of large tree trunk (red cedar) and may include figures such as animals, like fish, plants, insects, and humans. Totem poles were used as welcome signs into a village, to honor a member of the village who is no longer with them, or to portray cultural beliefs. They can be very colorful and show a lot of expression. In this lesson we will use collage to create totem poles. Collage is a technique where artwork is made from assembling different types of materials, that create a new whole. A collage may include magazine and newspaper clippings, ribbons, paint, bits of colored or handmade papers, portions of other artwork or texts, photographs and other found objects. The term *collage* was coined by both Georges Braque and Pablo Picasso in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup>.



### **PA Standards:**

1. **9.1.3.C.** Recognize and use fundamental vocabulary within each art form
2. **9.1.3.E.** Demonstrate the ability to define object, express emotion, illustrate and action or relate and experience through creation of works of art
3. **9.2.3.A** Explain the historical, cultural and social context of an individual work of art

**Goal:** Create a totem pole

**Objectives:**

1. Identify the region of the world you can find most totem poles
2. Use materials to create a figure for the group totem pole (construction paper, colored pencils, markers, crayons paint)
3. Understand expression and make sure it is present in figure that is created
4. Work co-operatively to create end result of group totem pole

**Requirements:**

For Class Two of the lesson bring back hand out with vocabulary definitions filled in using the information that was given in Class one.

**Resources/Materials/Visual Aids:**

- PowerPoint of totem poles and maps of the Pacific Northwest region.
- Handout with vocabulary list and images of totem poles for closer examination
- Teacher exemplar of finished totem pole figure.

**Supplies/Materials:**

- sketch paper
- pencils
- construction paper
- scissors
- glue
- markers, crayons, colored pencils, paint

**Teacher Preparation:**

- Create exemplar
- Create handout with vocabulary list (to be filled out by students) and images of totem poles
- Organize and prepare all materials to distribute in class
- Prepare PowerPoint with images of totem poles, map of where totem poles can be found

**Teaching:**

**Introduction:**

- Does anyone know what a totem pole is?
- Do you know what's is depicted on a totem pole?
- What features can you see on totem poles?
- Do you know what totem poles represent?
- Do you know who made totem poles?
- What is Carving?
- Where on a map is the Pacific Northwest?
- Can anyone name any states that are in the Pacific Northwest?

**Directions:**

1. Distribute handout
2. View PowerPoint
3. Show student's teacher exemplar of completed totem pole face
4. Have each student identify what type of figure for the totem pole they would like to be (i.e. Bird, fish, human), and what expression they would like their figure to show
5. Have each student draw a small sketch of what they would like their final totem figure to look like

6. Have student choose a colored paper of their choice and draw basic figure shape
7. Cut out shape of totem figure
8. Using drawing materials and colored construction paper construct the totem figure

**Closure:** As a class students will hang up each “face” in a vertical row to create a class totem pole

**Critique/Evaluation/Assessment:** Upon hanging up each students’ figure to create a totem pole each student will explain why they choose the figure they choose, why they choose the colors and what expression they used on their figure.

**Extensions:** Word search that contains words that pertain to the Pacific Northwest and Native Americans

**Adaptations/Modifications for ELL and Special Needs Students:**

-Have pre-cut shapes to create “face” for totem pole or allow student to draw “face” on totem pole

**Time Budget:**

Class 1: 45mins

- Discuss totem poles, their origin, their significance and the region they can be found. -15min (motivation)
- Have students sketch out idea of what they would like their totem figure to look like-15 mins (production)
- Have student choose a colored paper of their choice and draw out the shape they would like their figure to be-10 mins (production)
- write name on back of figure for next class and clean up-5mins (closure)

Class 2: 45mins

- Totem Pole refresher-5mins (motivation)
- Hand out student figures and sketches from previous class and have them construct the face on their figure—30mins (production)
- As a class using all students figure hang up in vertical row to create a totem pole-10mins (closure)

**Vocabulary:**

**Totem Pole:** monumental sculptures carved on poles, posts, or pillars with symbols or figures made from large trees

**Native American:** The indigenous peoples of the Americas are the pre-Columbian peoples of the Americas and their descendants.

**Indigenous:** originating in and characteristic of a particular region or country

**Carving:** is the act of using tools to shape something from a material by scraping away portions of that material.

**Expression:** the process of making known one's thoughts or feelings.

**Pacific Northwest:** U.S. states of Oregon and Washington as well as the Canadian province of British Columbia

**Safety Concerns:**

Make sure scissors are being used in the proper manner

**Bibliography/References:**

<https://en.wikipedia.org>

[https://www.shutterstock.com/search/totem-pole?search\\_source=base\\_keyword](https://www.shutterstock.com/search/totem-pole?search_source=base_keyword)

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/562809284662631739/>

