

A Himmeli Ornament, a traditional Swiss Christmas decoration, is shown in the foreground. It consists of a wooden frame made of thin sticks, with a yellow and white geometric patterned fabric on the left side and a pink and white striped fabric on the right. The ornament is suspended from a wooden string with several beads. The background is a wooden shelf filled with various craft supplies, including jars of colorful beads, paint bottles, and other materials.

Himmeli Ornament

Upper Primary / Secondary

LESSON PLAN

TITLE: Himmeli Ornament
YEAR LEVELS: Upper Primary / Secondary
TIME FRAME: 3 X 1 Hour Lessons

LEARNING GOALS

Discover different cultural art projects (Himmeli ornaments originated in Finland)
Understand the link between art and maths with the use of measurement and shape to create a structure

SKILLS

In this lesson students will learn about Himmeli ornaments. Students will create their own ornament by measuring and cutting straws as well as using techniques with wire to construct the sculpture.

MATERIALS

Beading wire
Straws
Cotton
PVA glue

ACTIVITY BREAKDOWN

Lesson 1

Students learn about Himmeli ornaments through viewing pictures of various designs. Students discuss the shapes being made and how they believe they are constructed. Show students simple designs and ask them to figure out how many straws they would need for each design, estimates of how many of each size straw they will need as well as a rough drawing of each section of the sculpture. Students create a simple diamond ornament as practice. Show them wire techniques in assembling the piece (EG twisting wires to connect two ends).

Lesson 2

Students design their own Himmeli ornament. Students draw out the plan for their design including the number of straws they will need and their length. Students construct their ornament.

Lesson 3

Students complete their ornament and display their work.

REFLECTION / EXTENSION

Reflection: Students look at their classmate's work. Discuss the intricate patterns and whether the designs match the finished outcome. Students discuss problems they faced and how they overcame these.

Extension: Students can add decoration to their ornament by including cotton over certain sections of their design. Students can brush PVA glue over the cotton and fold it over the straws in certain sections to add colour and interest to the work.