

## Hand-sewn germ monsters Lesson Plan



### Overview:

- Grade 4
- 4-6 class periods
- Students will cut out fabric and hand-stitch it together to create stuffed germ monsters. They will use more fabric, googly eyes and pipe cleaners to add details.

### Materials:

Felt fabric  
Scissors  
Needles and thread  
Googly eyes, pipe cleaners  
Stuffing/Polyester Fil  
Printouts with microscopic images of germs (optional)

### Art Vocabulary:

Whip stitch  
Running stitch  
Sewing pattern

### Essential Questions:

How can I create my own sewing pattern?

How can I hand-stitch fabric and fill with stuffing to create a soft 3D character?

### NC Essential Standards:

4.V.1.2 Apply personal choices while creating art.

4.V.3.3 Create art using the processes of drawing, painting, weaving, printing, stitchery, collage, mixed media, sculpture, ceramics, and current technology.

4.CX.2.2 Apply skills and concepts learned in other disciplines, such as math, science, language arts, social studies, and other arts, in the visual arts.

**Interdisciplinary concepts:** Germs-how are they harmful? Helpful? How do different germs look and what do they do?

## Day-by-day process

### Day one

- Look at microscopic images of germs with students. Discuss the shapes and characteristics of different germs.
- On copy paper, have students draw a 'sewing pattern' for their germ. The shape should be very large to fill the whole paper and have curves along the edges.
- Cut out pattern and select two pieces of fabric—one for the front of their germ monster and one for the back. Most any fabric will work but felt is best. Using a marker, trace the sewing pattern on the two pieces of fabric and cut out pieces.
- Put a piece of tape on fabric pieces with names.

### Day two

- Finish cutting out pieces of fabric if necessary.
- Begin adding details to the germs using other pieces of fabric, pipe cleaners, yarn, googly eyes. Use fabric glue to adhere these to the fabric or have students sew the pieces on (this is take more class time).

### Day three

- Continue process from day two.

### Day four

- Teach students how to hand sew the two pieces of fabric together. Demonstrate either whip stitch or running stitch (or both). The key for a successful stuffed germ monster is to do the stitches very close together so that once stuffing is added, it will not come out at the seams.
- Decide ahead of time if you will thread all of the needles beforehand for students or if they will do it themselves.
- Begin sewing by tying a double knot onto the edge of the fabric. Begin carefully stitching around the outside of the two fabric pieces.

### Day Five-Six

- Continue hand-stitching the edges until there is about a four inch space between where the stitching started and where the thread is currently.
- Using Polyfil stuffing to fill the germ monster. Add a lot of stuffing compactly into the stuffed germ to make it nice and poofy. Some students can do this easily with their hands, others might need an assisting tool such as a pencil to fill in all of the nooks and crannies.
- Finish the project by continuing to sew up the edge until reaching the original knot. End it by tying another double knot and cutting off the extra thread.

### Blog post

<http://anniesartroom.weebly.com/elementary-art/4th-grade-germ-monsters>