

## **Ontario Grade 8 Visual Arts Curriculum Connections for the Activity: Exploring Microscopic Worlds: Mixed Media Collage**

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### **D1. Creating and Presenting**

- D1.1: Students create a mixed-media collage inspired by microscopic imagery, using traditional and contemporary media to express ideas and multiple perspectives.
  - D1.2: Participants apply principles of design (balance, contrast, unity, rhythm) in composing their collages. They extend patterns from their microscopic images to unify their composition.
  - D1.3: The activity encourages the use of elements of design (line, shape, texture, colour) to communicate ideas about the hidden beauty of the microscopic world to an audience.
  - D1.4: Students use a variety of materials and techniques, such as oil pastels, acrylic markers, and fine-tipped pens, to address the challenge of representing abstract microscopic forms in an aesthetically engaging way.
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### **D2. Reflecting, Responding, and Analyzing**

- D2.1: In the reflection session, students identify how the microscopic imagery influenced their creative decisions, discussing themes of observation and hidden beauty.
  - D2.2: The activity asks students to evaluate their use of design principles (e.g., balance and unity) in achieving their artistic goals.
  - D2.3: Students interpret the microscopic imagery and discuss how patterns, symbols, or textures inspired their designs.
  - D2.4: Participants share their strengths and areas for growth during the reflection session, supported by feedback from peers and facilitators.
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### **D3. Exploring Forms and Cultural Contexts**

- D3.1: The activity integrates scientific observation with artistic traditions, encouraging students to explore hybrid practices and make connections between disciplines.
- D3.2: Students consider how technological advancements like microscopes influence artistic exploration and representation of themes like hidden worlds.

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## Fundamental Concepts:

### Elements of Design:

- **Line:** Extending shapes and patterns from microscopic images.
- **Shape:** Abstract forms derived from magnified textures.
- **Colour:** Harmonizing with the microscopic image's palette to create visual unity.
- **Texture:** Adding details with oil pastels and fine-tipped pens to mimic the intricate textures observed.

### Principle of Movement

- **Extending Microscopic Patterns:**  
Participants extend lines and shapes from the microscopic image outward into their designs. These extended forms create visual pathways that lead the viewer's eye around the composition, mimicking the organic flow observed under the microscope.
- **Repetition and Rhythm:**  
The repetition of patterns and textures inspired by the microscopic image generates a sense of rhythm. This rhythm suggests motion, as the eye naturally follows repeated elements across the artwork.
- **Contrast in Scale and Direction:**  
By juxtaposing intricate, detailed sections with open areas of white space or bold, sweeping lines, students create contrasts that energize the piece. These variations suggest directional movement and add dynamism.
- **Colour Flow:**  
The use of a harmonious colour palette, inspired by the microscopic image, helps to direct the eye. Colours may subtly shift in intensity or tone, creating a sense of flow throughout the artwork.