

## Lesson Plan: Stuffed Alebrije/ Sewing Project

# Overview



### Grades:

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade, adaptable to all grade levels

### Subject:

Art, Mathematics, and History

### Duration:

1.5 hour sessions x 4 sessions



### Lesson Synopsis:

Learn about the history of Pedro Linares and his Alebrijes, and use the basics of sewing to help create your own stuffed Alebrije. Students will learn how to thread a needle, tie a knot, running stitch, whip stitch, embroidery, how to sew on a button, how to tie off, and how to use a sewing machine. Get inspired by Mingei International Museum's collection of Alebrijes and Mexican Folk Art. Learn how to apply fundamental sewing skills in a classroom safely.

### Museum Connection:

Mingei's Alebrije and Mexican Folk Art from the permanent collection.

### Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Learn the history of Pedro Linares and his Alebrijes
- Learn about sewing and embroidery techniques
- Make their own stuffed Alebrije
- Apply personal design aesthetics
- Tool and machine safety

**\*\*Sewing can be dangerous please be sure to go over all safety and emergency procedures with your students for each tool and machine introduced.\*\***

## How to:

### Materials needed:

- |                  |                       |                              |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| -Sewing needles  | -Pincushions          | -Buttons or Beads (optional) |
| -Needle threader | -binder clips or pins | -Large envelopes (optional)  |
| -Fabric or felt  | -markers or chalk     | -Iron-on adhesive (optional) |
| -Thread          | -Stuffing             | -Iron/Heat press (optional)  |
| -Scissors        |                       | -Sewing Machines (optional)  |

## Vocabulary:

**Alebrije**- Brightly colored Mexican folk art sculptures of fantastical creatures. The first Alebrijes, along with the use of the term, originated with Pedro Linares Lopez.

**Sew**- Join, fasten or repair by making stitches with a needle and thread or sewing machine.

**Needle**- A very fine slender piece of metal with a point at one end and an eye for thread at the other.

**Fabric**- Cloth produced by weaving or knitting textile fibers.

**Thread**- A long strand of cotton, nylon, or other fiber used in sewing or weaving.

**Knot**- A fastening made by tying a piece of string, rope or something similar.

**Running Stitch**- A simple needlework stitch consisting of even stitches that run in and out.

**Whip Stitch**- An overcast stitch, commonly used to bind two or more fabrics together.

## Procedures:

### Pre-Class Prep:

Cut Fabric:

- Trace and cut out patterns (2 bodies and 1 belly = 1 alebrije)

Skills taught in four class sessions:

(Intro and history, basic sewing techniques, sewing machine and heat press/iron use and safety.)

**Day 1: Introduction:** Tell or act out the story of Pedro Linares Lopez and his Alebrijes, Introduce the students to sewing and selecting their pieces for their Alebrijes. Students should practice sewing on practice felt squares as they learn the fundamentals.

Read or act out the story of Pedro Linares Lopez:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-gZHUmqMmp2\\_S\\_I-UAdBUUDxWNIFeF9/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-gZHUmqMmp2_S_I-UAdBUUDxWNIFeF9/view?usp=sharing)

\*\*Note: sewing diagrams, videos, and are available here: (also found on the powerpoint)

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Uvsvy\\_JJg\\_LV\\_UmtsOi3ZAa0P4V0GG0Td?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Uvsvy_JJg_LV_UmtsOi3ZAa0P4V0GG0Td?usp=sharing)

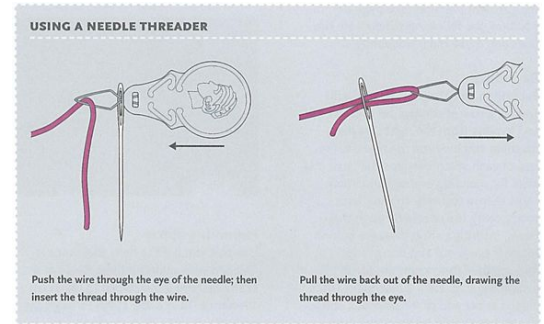
1. Start by threading needle and tying a knot
2. Learn Running Stitch and tying off.
3. Learn Whip Stitch and make a pocket by folding felt over.
4. pick out fabric/pattern
5. clean up and reflect

*Tips:*

*-Start with 1 arm-length of thread till they get better, then have them use 2 arm-lengths.*

*-Help them help themselves, have a video to watch, have them help each other. Leave space for failure and frustration.*

*-Be patient, Day 1 is slow going.*



**Day 2:** Review all you learned in Day 1. Have the students mime the motions for Running Stitch, Whipstitch, and messy knot as you go through each slide on the powerpoint. Start by having students thread their needles and practice sewing on a practice square of felt.

1. How to sew a Button: please see

AlebrijeDay2-4PP slide 6  
SewDiagramPP slide 6

2. Embellishments: have students add ears, tails, wings, horns, beaks, and more.

- Draw out parts
- Cut out shapes
- Attach by sewing
- What else can you add?

3. Introduce students to sewing machines to sew on embellishments. (optional)

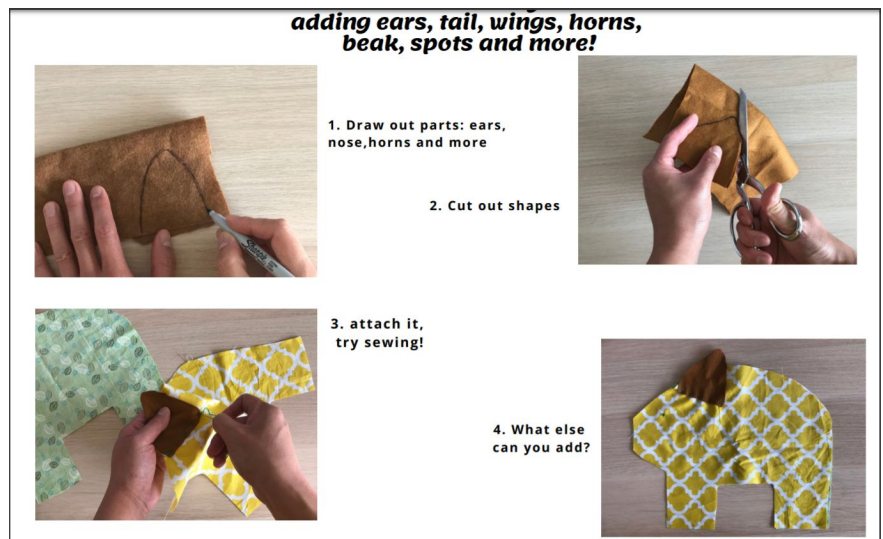
*Tips:*

*-Class volunteers are always helpful.*

*-Get a small timer to set 3-5 mins per student.*

4. Introduce heat press or iron- (optional)

5. Clean up and reflect



**Day 3+4:** Review Whip Stitch and tying off. Then remind them of how to embellish. (Day 3 you won't finish but some kids will get close, if they finish early they can continue to add more to their Alebrijes or draw and paint it and answer reflection questions.)

Sewing it together:

1. Line up your two body pieces.
2. Clip the top part together.
3. Open the legs of the top layer (see diagram).
4. Place belly piece on top.
5. Clip together.
6. Use whip stitch or sewing machine to sew it closed.



\*\*\*\*\*Stuffing your Alebrije\*\*\*\*\*

-Remember to leave an opening for stuffing.

-Always stuff the smallest and furthest part of the stuffy first i.e. head > neck > legs > body.

-After use Whip Stitch to close it up

**Resources:**

All Mingei Resources for Alebrije PD below:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Uvsv\\_JJg\\_LV\\_UmtsOi3ZAa0P4V0GG0Td?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Uvsv_JJg_LV_UmtsOi3ZAa0P4V0GG0Td?usp=sharing)

**Standards:**

**National Core Arts Standards:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:

VA:Cr1.1.3a, VA:Cr1.2.3a, VA:Cr2.1.3a, VA:Cr2.2.3a

4<sup>th</sup> Grade:

VA:Cr1.1.4a, VA:Cr1.2.4a, VA:Cr2.1.4a, VA:Cr2.2.4a, VA:Cn10.1.4a

5<sup>th</sup> grade:

VA:Cr1.1.5a, VA:Cr2.1.5a, VA:Cr2.2.5a, VA:Cr2.3.5a, VA:Cr3.1.5a, VA:Cn11.1.5a

6<sup>th</sup> Grade:

VA:Cr2.1.6a, VA:Re.7.1.6a, VA:Cn11.1.6a

7<sup>th</sup> Grade:

VA:Cr1.1.7a, VA:Cr1.2.7a, VA:Cr2.1.7a, VA:Cr3.1.7a, VA:Cn11.1.7a

8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

VA:Cr2.1.8a,

HS Proficient:

VA:Cr1.1.1a, VA:Cr2.1.1a

HS Accomplished:

VA:Cr2.1.1a,

HS Advanced:

VA:Cr2.2.11a

**Common Core:**

3rd Grade: [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.7](#)