

**Topic/Lesson Title:** Sri Lanka - Festival of Elephants

**Grade:** 1st

**New York State Visual Art Standards:**

- Standard 1: Creating, Performing and Participating in the Arts:  
Students will actively engage in the process that constitute creation and performance in the arts and participate in various roles in the arts.
- Standard 2: Knowing and Using Arts Materials and Resources:  
Students will be knowledgeable about and make use of the materials and resources available for participation in the arts in various roles.
- Standard 4: Understanding the Cultural Dimensions and Contributions of the Arts:  
Students will develop an understanding of the personal and cultural forces that shape artistic communication and how the arts in turn shape the diverse cultures of past and present societies.

**Objectives:**

**Art Production:**

Students will be able to create an elephant out of cardstock based on the elephants, which lead in the festivals in Sri Lanka. Students will decorate their elephant by gluing jewels and using bright colors to demonstrate the lavish elephants in the Perahera festivals.

**Art Perception:**

Students will look at pictures of the elephants from the Perahera festivals in Sri Lanka. The students will decorate their elephant with lavish designs.

**Visual References:**

Images from the Internet and books from the “Perahera” festivals  
Map of the country Sri Lanka  
Map of the world to point out the location of Sri Lanka  
Pictures of elephants

**Other Motivational Strategies, References and Materials:**

**References:**

- Sri Lanka Community Web. (2004). *Sri Lanka: Elephants in Festivals*.  
<http://www.srilankareference.org/srilankaelephants/srilankaelephantfestivals.htm>.
- Gluckman, Ron. (2006). Reporter pages. <http://www.gluckman.com/index.htm>.
- Crayola. (2007). Elephant Procession.  
[http://www.crayola.com/educators/lesson\\_plans/detail.cfm?id=826&dropdown1=2&dropdown2=5&dropdown3=0&dropdown4=0](http://www.crayola.com/educators/lesson_plans/detail.cfm?id=826&dropdown1=2&dropdown2=5&dropdown3=0&dropdown4=0)

Sri Lanka. (2007). Sri Lanka: A Land Like no other.

[http://www.srilankatourism.org/lang/en/traveller/facts\\_at\\_glance.php](http://www.srilankatourism.org/lang/en/traveller/facts_at_glance.php)

Sri Lanka. (2007). Festivals.

[http://www.srilankatourism.org/downloads/brochures/bro\\_f06022395636.pdf](http://www.srilankatourism.org/downloads/brochures/bro_f06022395636.pdf)

Kerala Fairs and Festivals. (2007). Sri Lanka.

<http://www.reddottours.com/India/Information/CultureAndFestivals/Festivals.php>

### **Materials and Supplies:**

Previously cut out elephants for tracing

8x10 gray cardstock or construction paper

Drawing pencils

Erasers

Glue

Scissors

Washable markers

Sequins, jewels, or other embellishments

Various colors of cardstock or construction paper

### **Ideas to Emphasize:**

- Explain how the people of Sri Lanka used colors, jewels, and lights
- Talk about the materials used
- Talk about how the elephant is sacred and is an animal of good fortune
- Talk about where Sri Lanka is in comparison to other countries such as India

### **Techniques to Demonstrate:**

- Show how to cut the elephant out neatly
- Demonstrate how to use the glue with the tiny jewels and sequins - Show what happens if you use too much glue
- Demonstrate (to those that need help) of how to cut the border out

### **Topics to Discuss *while* Working:**

- Has anyone ever been to the circus and seen elephants dressed in clothe, lights, beads, and jewels?
- Does anyone know anything about India? Sri Lanka has many of the same religions and customs. Talk about why these are similar (the countries are very close together)
- Talk about what kinds of materials the people of Sri Lanka might use to decorate these elephants

### **Topics to Discuss *when* Work is Complete:**

- Have students think about why they would use elephants as a sacred animal
- Refer back the pictures and ask students if they can see their own decorated and embellished elephant in a festival

## **Procedures:**

### Day One:

1.) We will talk about the festivals of Sri Lanka:

“The Esala Perahera (*A-suh-luh peh-ruh-ha-ruh*) is the grand festival of Esala held in Kandy. It’s one of the largest festivals and is believed to be a fusion of two separate but interconnected ‘Perahera’ (Processions) – The Esala and Dalada. The Esala Perahera which is thought to date back to the 3rd century BC, was a ritual enacted to request the gods for rainfall. The Dalada Perahera is believed to have begun when the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha was brought to Sri Lanka from India during the 4th Century AD.

The Perahera is a 10 day festival that happens over July or August and it has become a unique symbol of Sri Lanka. It is a Buddhist festival consisting of dances and richly-decorated elephants with the highlight being the relic casket, which is a substitute for the Tooth Relic, placed inside the ransivige (a dome-like structure) affixed to the largest of Elephants, (always a tusker).

The procession consists of hundreds of dancers and drummers and the elephants usually number near a hundred. There are fire-dances, whip-dances, Kandian dances and various other cultural dances. Each elephant is usually adorned with lavish garments and covered in a tailor-made, embroidered cloth which has been created by a specific tailor, flown in from the Indian mainland. The festival ends with the traditional ‘diya-kepeema’.”

2.) I will demonstrate to the students how to trace the elephant templates with the pencils on gray construction paper. The students will trace the templates and then will cut out the elephant.

3.) The students will be shown how to glue the elephant on a colored background.

4.) I will show the students pictures of the Sri Lankan elephants and the embellishments and costumes worn by the elephants. The students will be shown that they should place the embellishments on the feet, head, face, and body of the elephant. The elephant should be decorated with many bright colors.

### Day Two:

1.) The students will continue to use markers and sequins to create decorations for the elephants.

2.) The students will be shown how to put a patterned border around the elephant.

## **Possible Follow-up Lesson Idea:**

Students will be shown a variety of images from the other festivals in Sri Lanka. Students will learn about a variety of festivals and how they use sacred symbols. Students will create their own sacred symbol conveying an animal on construction paper.

### Sri Lanka Elephant Rubric

Goals	Projects Outcomes Criteria	4	3	2	1
<b>Basic Skills</b>	<b><i>Follows Directions, Requirements</i></b>	Followed all directions and completed all requirements	Followed most of the directions and completed most of the requirements	Followed some of the directions and completed some requirements	Did not follow directions or complete requirements /
	<b><i>Craftsmanship</i></b>	Exceptional skill with tracing, cutting, gluing, and coloring using markers	Good skills with tracing, cutting, gluing, and coloring using markers	Some skills with tracing, cutting, gluing, and coloring using markers	Does not exhibit skills
<b>Higher Level Thinking Skills</b>	<b><i>Originality Creativity</i></b>	Unique designs used	Original designs	Seldom original work possibly copied	Does not exhibit original ideas
<b>Apply Knowledge-</b>	<b><i>Design Principles / Elements</i></b>	Students used the correct principles and elements: design, shape, color, pattern, symmetry	Students used good of the correct principles and elements: design, shape, color, pattern, symmetry	Students used some of the correct principles and elements: design, shape, color, pattern, symmetry	Does not exhibit use of art principles or elements