



Walter Anderson Alphabet Art

**An art project for all grade levels
Approximately 45 minutes in duration**

MSCCRS STANDARD(S) ADDRESSED:

Social Studies:

- **Fourth Grade, Mississippi Studies and Regions:** 4.MS.9 (Explain how literature, the arts, architecture, and music distinguish Mississippi from other places.)
- **Eighth Grade, Mississippi Studies:** MS.11 (Examine the impact of Mississippi artists, musicians, and writers on the state, nation, and world.)
- History, civics, economics, civil rights, and geography standards, all grades

English Language Arts:

- Speaking and Listening standards, all grades

Arts Learning Standards for Visual Arts, all grades

Arts Learning Standards for Media Arts, all grades

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

I can create my own art piece in the same style as Walter Anderson's "An Alphabet" block print series.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- Cardstock
- Pencils
- Rulers
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils

PROCEDURE:

1. Lesson Introduction (approximately 5 minutes):

Brief explanation of museums generally and The MAX specifically

Give an overview of Walter Anderson, his connection to Mississippi, and his various art mediums (sketching, painting, block printing, sculpting, etc.)

Explain that he got a lot of his inspiration from nature – the colors, patterns, animals, plants, etc. that he saw.



2. Guided Lesson (approximately 5 minutes):

Place a handout (provided below) with the Seven Motifs on each table, give to each student, or display it so it can be seen throughout the lesson. Discuss the shapes.

Show students examples of Anderson’s “An Alphabet” series. Examples can be printed for personal use for this lesson, or displayed on a screen. The series can be seen online at:
<https://walterandersonart.com/collections/blockprints-alphabet>

Instruct the students to make their own version by illustrating the first letter of their name. They will need to choose something (any noun) to illustrate for that letter (examples: D is for Dog, Jaguar for J, kaleidoscope for K, magic for M, energy for E, etc.). Encourage the incorporation of the Seven Motifs in their drawings.

3. Independent Practice (approximately 30 minutes):

The students will then be given time to design their own alphabet art piece.

Instructor, teachers, aides, chaperones, etc. should be available to help students think of words to go with their letter, help them spell the words correctly, etc.

4. Closing the Lesson (approximately 5 min):

Have the students show their work and explain why they drew what they did. They should identify which of the Seven Motifs they incorporated in their artwork.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS FOR LEARNING:

Information about The MAX: msarts.org

About Walter Anderson: walterandersonmuseum.org |
mississippiencyclopedia.org/entries/walter-inglis-anderson/

Pictures of the “An Alphabet” block print series:
<https://walterandersonart.com/collections/blockprints-alphabet>

Other lesson plans available through the Walter Anderson Museum of Art:
<https://www.walterandersonmuseum.org/lesson-plan-library>

