



Hand Signals - Grades 3-5

Hand Signals (art + language)

This lesson plan shows how to create a fully posable hand manikin to help students learn to communicate in sign language. Students either make their own hands to manipulate or a teacher may use multiple hands to create a message that students may translate.

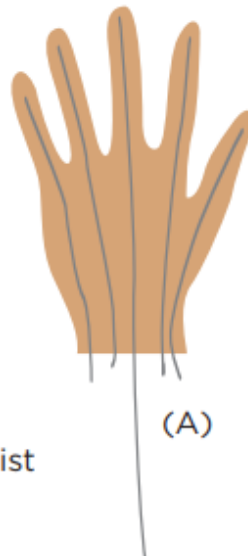
Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

Preparation

1. Using wire cutters, cut five pieces of wire for each student. Cut four pieces 8" long and one piece 12" long.
2. Using scissors, cut Wonderfoam® sheets in half. Each student will need one 9" x 12" piece.

Process

1. Students begin by tracing both right and left hands, one hand at a time, onto the craft foam with a pencil. Cut the shapes from the foam.
2. Place the wire strips on top of one of the foam handprints so that each wire extends from a point 1/4" from the fingertip to the wrist. Use the 12" piece for the middle finger, see (A).
3. Use a small strip of tape to temporarily hold the wires in place.
4. Apply glue to the outline of the hand and along the lines of each wire. Position the second foam handprint over the first and press tightly together. Fasten paper clips around the edges to hold until glue dries or place a heavy book on top.
5. Uneven edges can be trimmed when the glue is dry.
6. Trim excess wire from the bottom of the wrist with scissors. Leave the longer wire on the middle finger as a handle.



Materials

Creativity Street®
WonderFoam®
Multicultural Colors,
(60947-1012), share one
package of ten 12" x 18"
sheets per 20 students

Aluminum Sculpture Wire,
14-gauge (33400-1435),
need one 350-ft coil per
class

Mini Wire Cutter
(33083-1020), share three
across class

Blick® Economy Graphite
Pencils, box of twelve
(20302-2009), need one
pencil per student

Snippy Scissors, pointed,
package of twelve
(57040-2009), need one
pair per student

3M® Highland™
Transparent Tape 1/2"
(23017-0050), share one
roll across class

Craftfoam Glue, 2-oz
(23879-1102), share five
across class

Paper clips