



**Grade:** Fourth

**Artist:** El Anatsui

**Preparation:**

- There is a blue box labeled “Fourth Grade” in the supply closet on the 1st floor near the 4th & 5th grade classrooms with all the supplies needed for the presentation and project. The Awesome Art coordinator will go through the box to make sure that all materials are replenished.

- Each classroom folder contains:

- ✓ cardstock
- ✓ pastels
- ✓ bottle caps
- ✓ Elmer’s glue
- ✓ samples of the project

**What do parents need to do to prepare?**

- **A few days before the lesson**, read through the lesson plan and the Powerpoint. Make sure that you feel comfortable facilitating the lesson with your class. Plan with the other parent assigned to your class regarding how you will break up the content between the two of you.

- Email the teacher ahead of time, ensuring they have the Powerpoint projected for you at the time that the lesson starts.

- On the day of your lesson, make sure that you sign into the office before heading to the classroom. Please get there a few minutes early so that you have time to sign in and walk to the classroom, set up the materials and powerpoint beforehand, ultimately starting the lesson on time.

## **Presentation Instructions:**

**(Important Note: Please ensure that you take only about 20 minutes for the presentation so that students have time to focus on their artwork.)**

Step 1: Provide the students with the first objective of the lesson (Slide 2)

- You will inform the children that they will learn about El Anatsui, who is a famous contemporary African artist. He uses resources that are thrown away to create beautiful sculptures. His materials highlight his interest in reuse and transformation.

Step 2: Analyze El Anatsui's works and discuss how they exemplify reuse and transformation (Slides 3 -6)

- Remind the students that El Anatsui often uses bottle caps that were thrown out and binds them together with wire. This technique transforms bottle caps into beautiful works of art.
  - As students look at *Dusasa II*, *Between Heaven and Earth*, and *Gli*, ask them to tune into how Anatsui reuses items by asking what the art is made of. Also, ask them to tune into how he transforms individual items from his surroundings to art by asking what the artwork looks like to them and how it makes them feel.
- \*Make sure you take a look at the notes on these slides to provide more information about each work.

Step 3: Take a peek into El Anatsui's workspace (Slide 7)

- After you show students the video of El Anatsui and his students at work, ask about which parts of the process students find interesting.

Step 4: Provide the students with the second objective of the lesson (Slide 8)

- Explain that El Anatsui adopted the phrase *sankofa*, a Ghanaian term meaning "go back and pick." The phrase describes the process of remembering where you come from in the act of making art. It is about representing your past with art.

Step 5: Analyze how El Anatsui practices sankofa (Slides 9 - 11)

- Explain that by using bottle caps, El Anatsui is helping us remember history, including the history of slavery. Bottle caps first arrived in Africa during colonialism. Bottled drinks were some of the things traded for slaves, who then were forced to work on plantations to make sugar that was put into the drinks.
- Explain that by creating specific patterns in his artwork, Anatsui's work resembles the work of his dad, brother, and other traditional Kente weavers who create beautiful African cloth by weaving strips into patchwork. Some of Anatsui's patterns look like traditional Kente cloth patterns.

#### Step 6: Synthesize and Introduce the Project (Slide 12)

- Synthesize by asking students who they studied about and what the artist is known for.
- Explain that just like El Anatsui, students will use bottle caps and the concept of sankofa to create beautiful art! Remind students that *sankofa* is a Ghanaian term meaning “go back and pick. ” Encourage students to think about what happened in the past that is meaningful to them. Encourage them to draw the memory using pastels, and decorate by gluing bottle caps.

(Note: While one parent finishes up the presentation, the other will distribute art materials, ensuring that each child receives cardstock. Each table will receive bottle caps to share and glue to share, as well.)

#### Step 7: Have students write their name and class (e.g. 4L) on the back of their cardstock.

#### Step 8: Students work on their project while parents circulate and see if students need anything

#### Step 9: Closure/Reflection

- Ask students what they learned today.
- Ask students what they learned about El Anatsui.
- Ask students what they learned about reusing materials, transforming everyday materials into art, and the concept of sankofa.
- Ask students what they learned about themselves.

#### **IMPORTANT:**

- Please be sure to have the students write their name and grade/class on the back of their artwork.
- Once you are done, allow the work to dry. The Awesome Art chair will put the works up on the Awesome Art bulletin board once it does dry.

*Thank you for being awesome and volunteering for Awesome Art!*