

Lesson Plan: Sewing a Pencil Case with Zipper

Class: Grade 9 Sewing Class

Duration: 2.5 hours (can be adjusted based on class progress)



Objectives:

- Learn the basics of sewing machine operation and safety.
- Practice fundamental sewing techniques, such as measuring, cutting, pinning, and sewing straight seams.
- Develop skills in sewing a pencil case with a zipper.
- Apply creativity and personalization through fabric selection and embellishments.
- Understand and follow marking criteria to assess their work.

Materials:

- Sewing machines (one per student or shared between two students)
- Fabric (cotton or canvas) in various colours/designs
- Fabric scissors
- Ruler
- Pins
- Thread
- Sewing needles
- Iron and ironing board
- Marking tool (fabric marker or chalk)
- Zipper (approximately 9 inches long)
- Button or snap closure (optional)
- Ribbon or bias tape (optional)

Procedure:

Introduction (10 minutes):

1. Begin by reviewing the previous lesson and the project: sewing a pencil case.
2. Recap the objectives and steps involved in the lesson.
3. Explain that in this lesson, students will learn how to add a zipper to their pencil cases.
4. Briefly discuss the marking criteria for the project.

Part 1: Preparing the Fabric (20 minutes):

1. Instruct students to measure and cut two rectangular fabric pieces, approximately 9 inches by 5 inches, for the front and back of the pencil case.
2. Encourage students to choose fabrics that reflect their personal style and interests.
3. Demonstrate how to mark and cut the fabric accurately using a ruler and fabric scissors.

Part 2: Adding the Zipper (40 minutes):

1. Explain the process of adding a zipper to the pencil case.
2. Instruct students to place one fabric piece right side up and align the zipper along one of the longer edges, with the right side of the zipper facing down.
3. Guide them to pin the zipper in place, ensuring the fabric and zipper are aligned.
4. Teach students how to attach the zipper foot to the sewing machine and sew close to the zipper teeth, removing pins as they go.
5. Repeat the process for the other fabric piece, aligning it with the other side of the zipper.
6. Instruct students to press the fabric and zipper away from the center, using an iron and ironing board.

Part 3: Sewing the Pencil Case (40 minutes):

1. Instruct students to open the zipper halfway before proceeding.
2. Guide them to pin the fabric pieces right sides together, aligning the remaining edges.
3. Instruct students to sew around the three remaining sides of the pencil case, leaving a small opening on one side for turning.
4. Remind students to backstitch at the beginning and end of the seams and reinforce the corners.
5. Assist students individually as needed, checking for correct machine threading and tension.

Part 4: Final Assembly and Personalization (30 minutes):

1. Instruct students to carefully trim excess fabric and zipper ends.
2. Have them turn the pencil case right side out through the opening, gently pushing out the corners.
3. Instruct students to press the pencil case to ensure crisp edges and smooth seams.
4. Encourage students to personalize their pencil cases by adding embellishments like fabric appliques, embroidery, or fabric paint.
5. Optional: Guide students in adding a button or snap closure, or a ribbon/bias tape loop for securing the pencil case.

Conclusion (10 minutes):

1. Have students carefully turn their pencil cases right side out through the opening.
2. Instruct them to press the pencil case to ensure crisp edges and smooth seams.
3. Provide time for students to share their completed pencil cases and discuss their fabric choices and embellishments.
4. Recap the key sewing techniques learned during the lesson.
5. Congratulate students on their accomplishments and encourage them to continue exploring sewing projects at home.

Note: Adjust the time allocation for each section based on the students' progress and skill level. Offer assistance and support throughout the lesson to ensure students understand the sewing techniques and can complete the pencil case successfully.