

# Conquering the Camera

**Objectives:** To teach students basic photography knowledge of camera use and composition.

**Materials:**

- Disposable Cameras
- Sample Cameras
- Large photo (any picture or magazine clipping blown up as large as desired)
- Large piece of card stock (any color)
- Thin tipped marker
- White glue
- Exacto knife or scissors
- Large piece of cardboard (if using Exacto knife)

**10 minutes; Photography Introduction**

Choose several well-known images from the past and have students name the event those images may be portraying. As groups, ask students to tell what they like or dislike about each photo.

**10-15 minutes; The Parts and Types of Cameras**

The word 'camera' comes from the term *camera obscura* (Latin for "dark chamber")

Discuss the parts of the camera (found below), as well as the different types.

Types of Cameras:

Digital Camera - use electronics to capture and store the image they are not restricted to the traditional camera designs incorporating film transport mechanisms. Therefore their size and shape often vary greatly. Digital cameras usually incorporate an LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) viewing screen that displays the scene viewed through the lens.

Video Camera - used for electronic motion picture acquisition, initially developed by the television industry but now common in other applications

Pinhole camera - a camera without a lens. An extremely small hole takes its place, which should be in very thin material. An image's light from a scene passes through this single point, the image on the light-sensitive material will be upside-down, and clear at all distances from the pinhole. The smaller the hole, the sharper the image, but the more exposure will be required

### **20-25 minutes; Picture Taking**

Using disposable cameras, ask students to practice taking good pictures. Ask them to take into consideration lighting, distance, and subject matter.

Students can create a storyboard or timeline using photos. Choose an event that requires several steps and ask students to photograph each different action. When developed, these photos will tell a story for the eye to see! Captions can be created to describe the event.

### **20-25 minutes; Photo Puzzle**

1. Have each student choose a personal photo or photo from a magazine that has special meaning to them. If they do not want to destroy their picture, they can make a photocopy for the puzzle.
2. Apply a thin layer of glue across the entire back of the picture, then paste it to the piece of thick card stock. Make sure to smooth and press firmly on the surface of the picture to ensure that the image sticks and that there are no air pockets. Trim the edges of the card stock to the shape and size of the picture pasted on it.
3. Once the picture is completely dry, flip it over and draw out puzzle shapes on the card stock that will be used for the puzzle pieces.
4. Cut out the drawn shapes using an Exacto knife on a flat surface with cardboard underneath, or with a very sharp pair of scissors.
5. Once all pieces are cut out, work on putting the puzzle back together again!



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