



## Teaching Art with KEVA<sup>®</sup> planks

### **Build A Mind!**

KEVA<sup>®</sup> planks are a sculpture medium that uses only one simple building unit yet allows an infinite number of construction possibilities. KEVA<sup>®</sup> planks provide a genuine sculpture experience with minimal mess, very quick cleanup and universal appeal for all skill levels and all ages. No glue is used, just creative stacking methods.

### **Instant Art Lesson Plan**

1. ***Introduction*** - Introduce the general art topic. i.e What is minimalist art?
2. ***Challenge*** - Issue a challenge or specific parameters for a project from the suggestions in these pages. Most are very simple instructions with an unlimited number of possible responses.
3. ***Build*** - Allow construction time. Suggested time varies according to the number of planks available or teacher objectives.
4. ***Observe*** - Lead students through observations and discussion of their structures. Suggested questions are listed below.
5. ***Cleanup*** - All planks are the same so all planks go into the same containers. Cleanup usually takes just a few minutes if all students help - even with thousands of planks.

### **Questions**

Use one or more of these questions after an activity to help children think through their discoveries.

What did you learn or discover as you built?

How is your final structure different from your original concept?

What was the most difficult part?

How are forces working in your structure?

How could you make your structure more attractive or more interesting?

What would you do differently the next time you try to build something like this?

What can you learn from structures others have built?

Tell me about your structure? (May be too broad of a question for some students.)

## Challenges

### Minimalism

Build a sculpture using only 10 planks

Build objects with only the most essential elements-i.e. Airplane with 3 planks

### Realism

Build a particular object (truck, bird, the Sears tower, a boat). What makes a truck a truck?

**Non uniform sculpture-** Does not follow a pattern, non linear- free form (Island, stack of hay, tree etc.)

### Two Dimensional Designs

Create a 2D representation of a real object- apple, butterfly\* etc

Create a 2D design using patterns. Consider pattern repetition.

Linear patterns, circular patterns, spirals,

How many different ways can you make a square? triangle? hexagon?

\*examples are found online at [KEVAplanks.com](http://KEVAplanks.com)

### 3D Sculptures

Create a structure with a shape theme

Triangles

Squares

Polygons

Shapes can be structural or decorative.

### Spirals

Make a structure using spirals.

How many different types of spirals can you make?

How can you affect the the number of layers needed to make a complete revolution?

### Impossible Structures

Build a structure and remove some of the planks to create a sculpture that could not be built from the ground up.

### Think Big

Students work in teams to collaborate on a create project or allow extended time to build a very large sculpture.

### Speed building

Work in teams. Race to see who can build a tower 5 feet high.

**Bridge challenge.**

With one plank touching the table, build the widest structure.

With two planks...

With four planks...

Build a bridge span as wide as possible with only four blocks touching the floor or table.

**Think like an architect**

Build a tower as tall as yourself. Add patterns/structure to make it more beautiful or interesting- i.e. Think like an architect.

**Establish a constraint by which all must follow**

All planks grouped in 3's

All in 2's

All in 5's

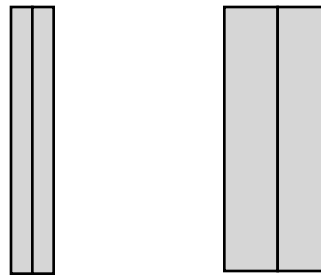
All in 2's side by side

All stacked flat

All stacked vertically

Only 10, 20 50 or 100 planks

Only 4 minutes, 10 minutes

**Games*****Sculptura™***

Each player creates a square base with 5 blocks placed side by side. No other planks may touch the table or floor. Leader will say **flat**, **edge** or **upright** and all players must place two planks in that orientation any way they wish upon their platform. (the two planks do not have to be together) Alternatively, the students could place one plank at a time but pleasing symmetry is more difficult to achieve one block at a time. Continue calling out orientations until a reasonable stopping point is reached. Leader may use a die (1 and 2= **upright**, 3 and 4= **edge**, 5 and 6 = **flat**) or just randomly call out orientations or players take turns calling orientations.

**Try these variations.**

Artistic structure

Tallest structure

Widest structure

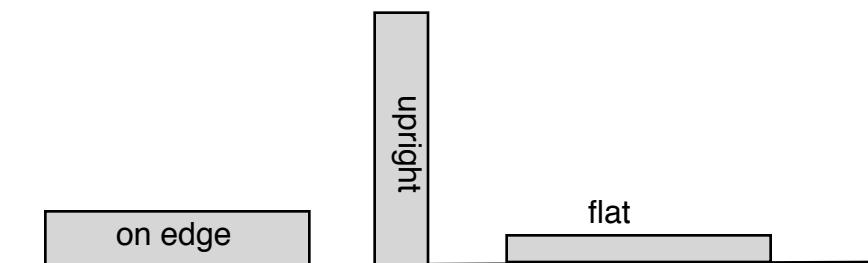
5 blocks per structure

10 blocks per structure

20 blocks per structure

Three block chunks

Use 1 or 2 planks instead of 5 for the starting base.



***Sculptionary™***- One person builds and others must guess the object.

***KEVAtalk™***- One person describes precise positioning and all try to build the same sculpture without seeing the master. A barrier (upright books) is necessary so builders cannot see the leader's structure. Start with three to five blocks until students' communication skills improve.

### Tips

- Always take the time to observe and consider the work of the other artists.
- Notice new techniques.
- Notice the effects of patterns.
- Notice difficult balance accomplishments.
- Notice innovative sculptors.
- Challenge students to express something they like about each sculpture.
- Challenge students to name their sculpture and explain the name.
- Challenge students to consider what they might try differently next time.
- What emotions does this sculpture evoke?
- Discuss the value of creativity.
- Talk about the value of sculptures
- How can sculpture express emotion?

### **Some of the concepts children discover while building:**

Balance

Counterbalance

Leverage

Optimum proportions

2D vs 3D design

Linear vs parabolic shapes

Symmetry

Problem solving

Innovation

Teamwork

Quantitative math

Geometric shapes

Creative joy