



The Aga Khan Museum and Gardiner Museum

BLUE ACROSS CULTURES

Title: Shades of Blue Across Cultures

Date: Nov 5, 2026

Audience: Grades 4–8

Language: English

Format: Live virtual & hands-on activity

Duration: 60 minutes

Time: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

REGISTER HERE



AGA KHAN MUSEUM

**Gardiner
Museum**



Bring the **Aga Khan Museum** and the **Gardiner Museum** into your classroom through two engaging live virtual programs designed for students in Grades 4–8. Each session uses objects from both museums' collections through interactive discussions and a simple hands-on activity.

These collaborative programs invite students to investigate museum objects, share ideas, and make meaningful connections between cultures, histories, and artistic traditions.

SHADES OF BLUE ACROSS CULTURES

Across the world, artists found strikingly different ways to create the colour blue in ceramics, from the elusive Maya blue of Mesoamerican pottery to the vivid cobalt blue of Islamic ceramics. Through a close look at works from the Aga Khan Museum and the Gardiner Museum, this session explores how materials, techniques, and cultural values shape the use of colour.

Learning Goals

- Investigate how artists created blue pigments using natural materials and different artistic techniques.
- Compare how blue was used across cultures and historical periods through objects from both museum collections.
- Explain how materials, innovation, and cultural exchange influenced artistic traditions.

Materials

Paper, pencil and pencil crayons

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CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Blue Across Cultures

Shades of Blue Across Cultures

Grade	Subject	Strand	Specific Expectations
4	The Arts	D. Visual Arts D1. Creating and Presenting D3. Exploring Forms and Cultural Contexts	D1.1, D1.3, D1.4 D3.1, D3.2
	Social Studies	A. Heritage and Identity: Early Societies to 1500 CE A1. Application: Past and Present Societies A2. Inquiry: Ways of Life and Relationships with the Environment A3. Understanding Context: Characteristics of Early Societies	A1.2, A1.3, A1.4, A2.1, A2.2, A2.6, A3.2, A3.3, A3.6
	Science and Technology	E. Earth and Space Systems E2. Exploring and Understanding Concepts	E2.4
5	The Arts	D. Visual Arts D1. Creating and Presenting D3. Exploring Forms and Cultural Contexts	D1.1, D1.3, D1.4 D3.1, D3.2
6	The Arts	D. Visual Arts D1. Creating and Presenting D3. Exploring Forms and Cultural Contexts	D1.1, D1.3, D1.4, D3.1, D3.2
	Social Studies	A. Heritage and Identity: Communities in Canada, Past and Present A3. Understanding Context: The Development of Communities in Canada	A3.11
7	The Arts	D. Visual Arts D1. Creating and Presenting D3. Exploring Forms and Cultural Contexts	D1.1, D1.4, D3.1, D3.2
8	The Arts	D. Visual Arts D1. Creating and Presenting D3. Exploring Forms and Cultural Contexts	D1.1, D1.4, D3.1, D3.2



ABOUT THE AGA KHAN MUSEUM

Mission

Through the arts, the Aga Khan Museum sparks wonder, curiosity, and understanding of Muslim cultures and their connection with other cultures.

Vision

To impact lives and contribute to more inclusive and peaceful societies.

For additional information please visit our website or contact
learn@agakhanmuseum.org



AGA KHAN MUSEUM



ABOUT THE THE GARDINER MUSEUM

The Gardiner Museum is an internationally-renowned cultural institution and one of the only museums in the world dedicated to ceramics.

The Gardiner's clay programs are a powerful community building tool that help make the arts accessible to everyone. For thousands of young people each year, the Gardiner's hands-on workshops promote confidence, creativity, and community.

Website: gardinermuseum.com

Contact: education@gardinermuseum.com

