

## Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will understand the basics of illuminated manuscripts, their historical significance, and will create their own simple illuminated letter, incorporating colorful designs and patterns.

## Materials and Prep

- Plain paper or a sketchbook
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Gold or silver markers (if available)
- Pencil for sketching
- Reference images of illuminated manuscripts

Before the lesson, gather reference images of illuminated manuscripts to show the student. Familiarize yourself with the basic elements of these artworks, such as decorative borders and colorful lettering.

## Activities

- **Introduction to Illuminated Manuscripts:**

Start by showing the student reference images of illuminated manuscripts. Discuss what they see and how these beautiful books were made in the Middle Ages.

- **Design Your Own Letter:**

The student will choose a letter from the alphabet (like the first letter of their name) and sketch it on paper. Encourage them to think about how they can decorate it with colors and patterns.

- **Add Color and Shine:**

Using colored pencils or crayons, the student will color their letter and add decorative elements around it. If they have gold or silver markers, they can use these to make their letter shine!

- **Share Your Artwork:**

Once completed, the student can share their illuminated letter with family members. They can explain what inspired their design and what they learned about illuminated manuscripts.

## Talking Points

- "Did you know that illuminated manuscripts were like the colorful books of the Middle Ages? They were made by hand!"
- "Look at these beautiful letters! What colors do you think they used to make them so bright?"
- "What letter do you want to decorate? Remember, you can make it as big and colorful as you like!"
- "Adding gold or silver makes your letter look special, just like the ones from long ago!"
- "Can you tell me about the patterns you chose? What do they remind you of?"
- "How does it feel to create your own illuminated letter? It's like being an artist from the past!"