

LESSON PLAN

Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center

Curriculum Title: Lowrider Paper Model

Time: 90 minutes _ Ages/Group: 5-7 Lesson Number: One Medium: Paper, markers, coloring pencils

GOALS/OBJECTIVES	To give students an appreciation of Lowrider cars as a cultural artform
How do these goals preserve, create, present or promote cultural arts of Mexican Americans or other Latin@ cultures? Is it socially relevant? Will your lesson address the 5 E's? (Engage, explore, explain, elaborate-extend, evaluate)	<p>This curriculum presents and promotes the Lowrider subculture, which originated in Chicanx communities and is still heavily associated with Mexican Americans. It remains a thriving subculture in Austin.</p> <p>This lesson engages students in a variety of exercises and activities, explores students' own personal expression, explains historical and cultural context of lowriding, incorporates and builds upon previous knowledge, and evaluates students' thoughts on the activities.</p>

AGENDA

TIME

<u>Check-In/Opening Ritual:</u> Each student introduces their name and their favorite color(s). Instructor starts.	5 mins
<u>Warm-Up/Introductory Activity:</u> Worksheets (1 per student) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction (Page 1): Instructor reads to students. Students that can read may volunteer to do so. • Activity 1 (Page 1): Students try to identify the modifications to the 1963 Chevrolet Impala, using what they have learned from the introduction. They can copy the bolded terms into the boxes with help from the instructor or their peers. • History (Page 2): Instructor reads to students. Students that can read may volunteer to do so. • Discussion (Page 2): Facilitate a discussion with students using the prompts on the page. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "Have you ever seen a lowrider before?" This can include on TV or online. If some students have not seen lowriders before, you can show the first 1 minute 30 seconds of this video from youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSj5nB-3Sls. It shows lowriding in Austin. ○ "What did it look like?" Guide the students towards the appearance of the car as the next section will move towards this idea ○ "How was the outside painted?" Did the car have any special designs? What color was it? • Paint Jobs (Page 3): Instructor reads to students, pausing to explain the special bolded terms and to ask students to point out the elements that are being described to check understanding. • Activity 2 (Page 4): Students draw a line between each picture on the left and the lowrider art that uses it as subject matter. To make it more fun, you can time them to see how fast they can do it as a group. • Brainstorm (Page 4): Students discuss what they would paint on their lowrider. 	20 mins

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note: Page 5 will be completed when students have made their lowrider 	
<p><u>Core Activity:</u> Lowrider model</p> <p><u>Steps/Procedures:</u></p> <p>Paper Models – Instructor gives each student a 1964 Impala template. There are two variations, each with different wheels. To create the model:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cut out the model. This is first so that if students make an error cutting, they do not lose their drawing/coloring work. Encourage them to roughly cut around the shape. Once they have done that, they cut along the lines. Students will need close monitoring and probably assistance. To save time, you might like to pre-cut out the models. Names. Ask each student to write their name on the back of their model. Pre-fold. Pre-fold along the dotted lines to create creases. This will make it easier to fold the model later on. <p>2 minute break for water or to move around a bit. If they are particularly restless, this is a good point to collect up the models to continue at another time.</p> <p>Paper Models continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Color the model. Encourage students to think about the painting options from Page 3 of the worksheet. Use coloring pencils for murals (it enables more detailed work), and markers for coloring larger sections. Make sure they do not color the tabs. Fold the model. Fold the paper along all the dotted lines so that it forms the 3d car shape. Fold the tabs. Fold the tabs and line them up so that it is clear where it will be glued. Glue the tabs underneath the appropriate section. Optional: apply “flakes”. Students apply glitter to the model using glitter pens if they are available. <p>Discussion: Students take turns explaining what colors, patterns or pictures they used on their lowrider</p> <p>Activity: Hittin’ Switches (Worksheet page 5) Students place a plastic fork underneath their lowrider with the ends of the prongs sticking out the back of the car. By pushing down the prongs, it should lift the front of the car off the ground.</p> <p>Optional activity: Lowrider hopping contest Students compete to see who can hop their lowrider the highest off the ground without it flipping.</p> <p><u>Discussion Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did you decorate your lowrider? What do you like about the colors you chose? 	<p>1 hour</p>

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<p><u>Vocabulary (Simpler explanations on worksheet):</u></p> <p>Candy paint: Vibrantly colored paint often used for painting lowrider cars, eg. candy green, candy red. Created through a process of applying a base coat, mid coat, and clear top coat to give a very shiny finish.</p> <p>Chicanx/Xicanx: Name used by many Americans of Mexican heritage to describe themselves, their identity and their culture. Also includes Chicano, Chicana, Xicano, Xicana.</p> <p>Cruising: Driving around for fun, often on a strip of road that others also cruise on.</p> <p>Flakes: Metal flakes in the paint that makes it reflect light like glitter.</p> <p>Hittin' switches: Flipping switches in a lowrider that raises or lowers the body of the car. There are typically four switches: front, back, left, right. Flipping the switches in different combinations and with specific timing can be used to make the car hop, dance or bounce.</p> <p>Lowrider: A car, usually a classic car from the 1950s, 1960s or 1970s, that has a lowered body. They often have custom paint jobs, smaller wheels and hydraulic or airbag suspension that allow the driver to raise or lower the body of the car.</p> <p>Mexican-American: An American of Mexican heritage and their culture.</p> <p>Mural: An artwork that is painted on a wall or other large surface.</p> <p>Paint job: The way a car is painted for decoration.</p> <p>Pattern: Part of an image that repeats over and over.</p> <p>Two-tone: Using two different shades of color, especially one light, one dark.</p> <p>Wheel/Fender skirt: Sheet of metal matching the rest of the car that covers the wheel.</p>	
<p><u>Check-Out/Closing Ritual</u></p> <p>Rose and Thorn: Each student answers the question: what was one thing you enjoyed about that activity (rose) and one thing that was challenging (thorn)? They each say "my rose was..." and "my thorn was..." giving their answer.</p>	5 mins

PLANNING

REFLECTION

<u>Special Supplies Needed/Things to Prepare Ahead of Time</u>	<u>Challenges/Successes/Notes for Coordinator</u>
<p><i>No need to list supplies you bring every day (pencils, crayons, scissors, paper, etc.)</i></p> <p>For instructor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheet (copy for instructor) printed on plain paper in color • 1964 Impala Template printed on plain white paper in grayscale. There should be at least one copy of each template for each child, but preferably there should be spares in case a child accidentally tears their template or makes a mistake when cutting. The template features two versions, each with different wheels. <p>For each child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheet printed in color or grayscale • Lead pencil 	

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eraser• Pencil sharpener• Set of coloring pencils• Set of markers• Glue stick• Glitter pen (optional)• One plastic disposable fork | |
|--|--|

References

Chappell, B. (2012). Lowrider space: aesthetics and politics of Mexican American custom cars. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.

Supplemental Materials

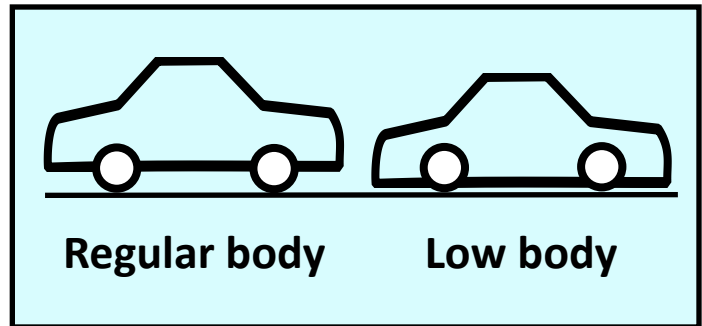
LOWRIDERS

Introduction

Lowriders are cars that have their **body lowered** so that they sit close to the ground. They are usually old, classic cars.

They can have:

- **Colorful paint;**
- **Small wheels;**
- **Hydraulic or Airbag suspension** that can make the body of the car go up or down. They can even make the car drive on three wheels!
- Other modifications (changes) to make the car look good, like **wheel skirts** (covers for the back wheels), or fancy bumpers.



Activity: What are the differences between these cars?



Regular

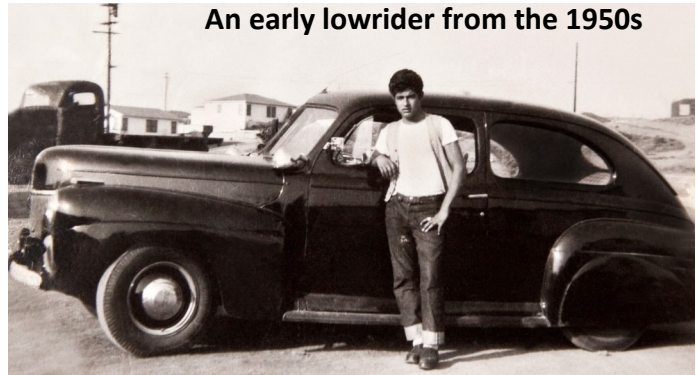


Lowrider

LOWRIDERS

History

The first **Lowriders** were created by **Chicanxs**. That is a name that some Mexican-Americans like to call themselves and their culture.



An early lowrider from the 1950s



Lowriders Cruising

Photo by Aurelio José Barrera

They made changes to their cars to make them more special. One of their favorite past-times was **cruising**. Cruising is when you drive around for fun, especially when you do it with other friends in your car club.

Today, all kinds of people drive lowriders, but Chicanx people and culture is still a very important part of the lowriding community.

Discussion:

Have you ever seen a lowrider before?

What did it look like?

How was it painted?



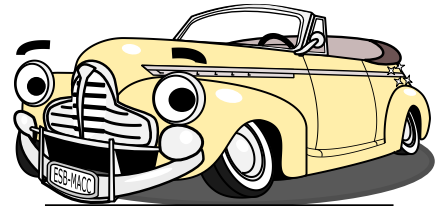
Austin Lowriders at the ESB-MACC during MexAmerican

MEXAMERICAN
COMMUNITY, CULTURE & COMICS | AUSTIN, TEXAS

LOWRIDERS

Paint jobs

Lowriders can be painted in different ways...

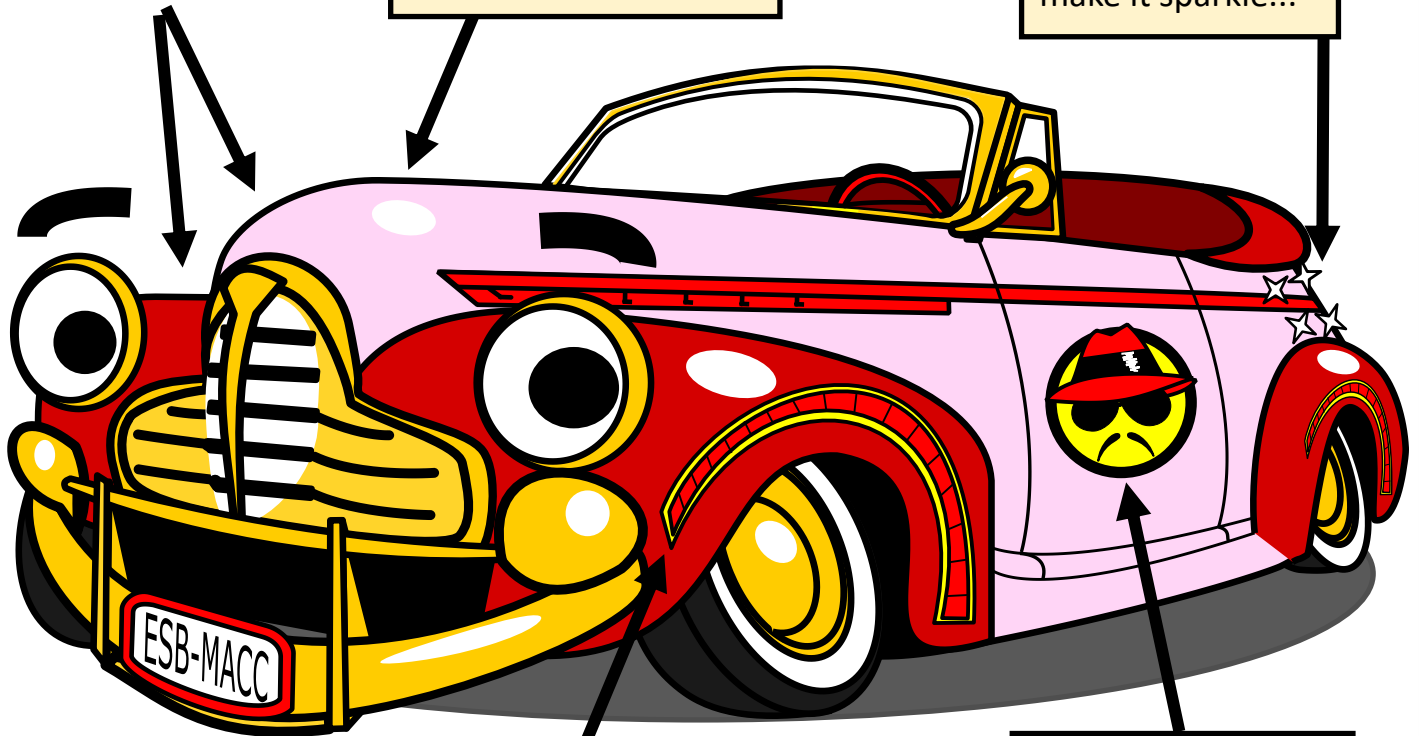


...in one color...

...in a **two-tone** that matches the curves of the car...

...with **candy paint** to make it super shiny...

...with **flakes** to make it sparkle...



...with **patterns**...

...and with **murals**.

Murals can be of anything, but often show the owner's **Mexican, Chicana/ Mexican-American, or Aztec** (indigenous/native people from Mexico) culture.

Vocabulary

Candy Paint:

Paint that is specially made to make the car look very shiny.

Flakes:

A kind of glitter that's mixed with the paint to make it sparkly.

Mural:

An artwork that is painted on a wall or other big surface.

Paint job:

The way a car is painted to make it look good.

Pattern:

Part of a picture that repeats over and over.

Two-tone:

Using two different colors, especially one light, one dark.

LOWRIDERS

Cultural imagery

Activity: Match the cultural images to the lowrider art



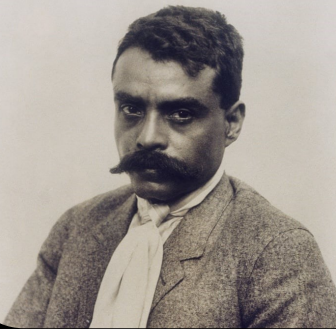
Aztec Sun Stone

Giant stone calendar created by the Aztec people over 500 years ago.



La Virgen de Guadalupe

Saint Mary, mother of Jesus, who people say appeared in Mexico.



Emiliano Zapata

Leader that fought for poor country people in Mexico.



Lowrider Culture

The way of life of people who turn their cars into lowriders and are part of the lowriding community.

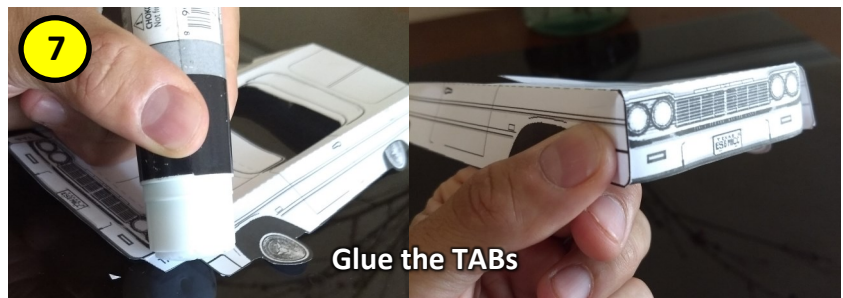
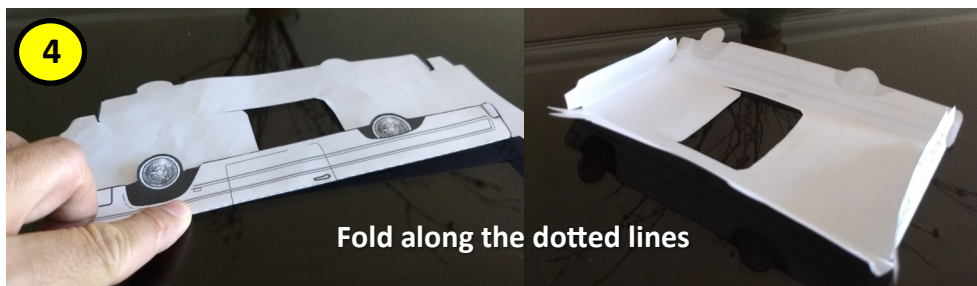
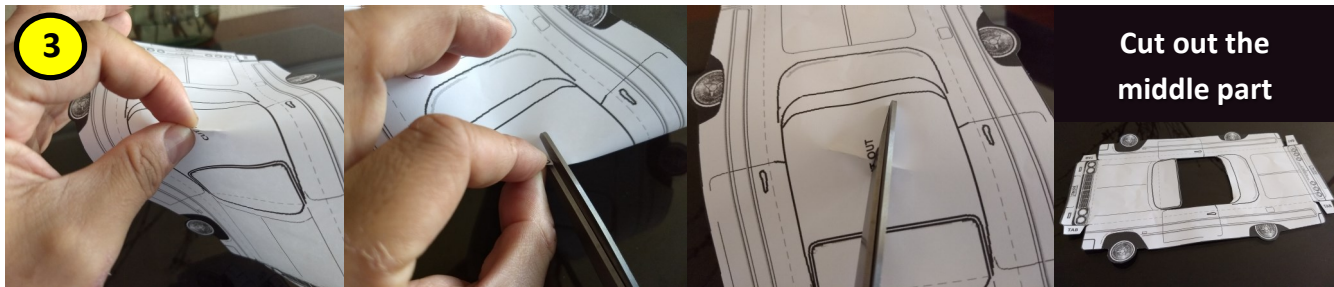
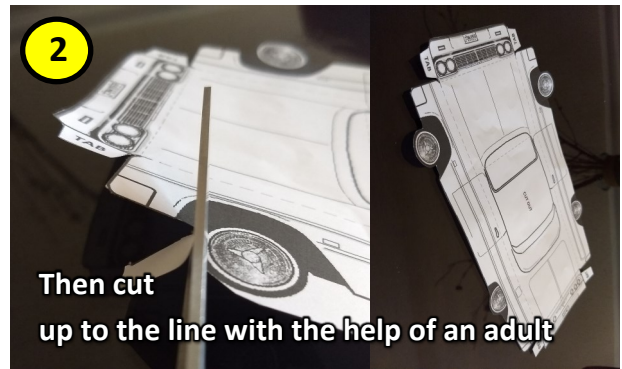
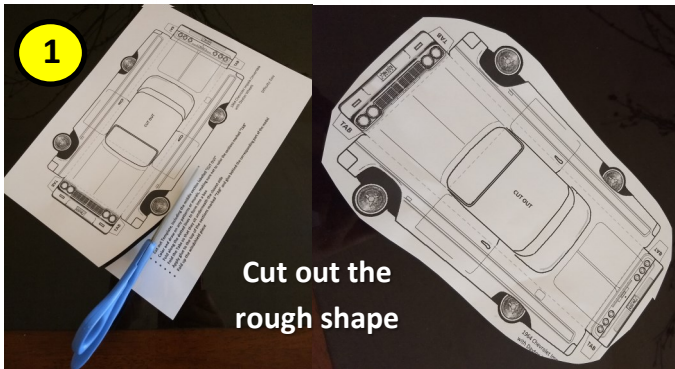


Brainstorm: How would you paint *your* lowrider?



LOWRIDERS

Paper Model



LOWRIDERS

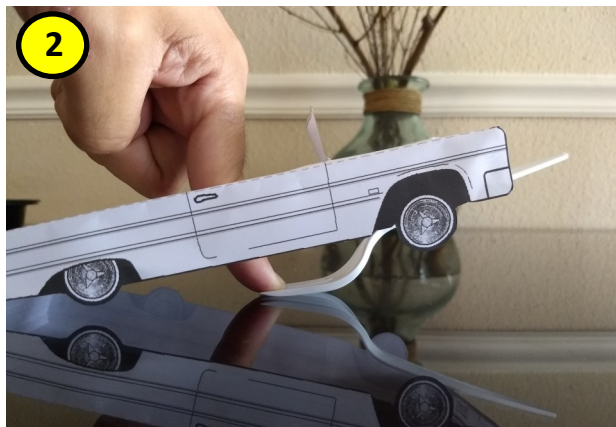
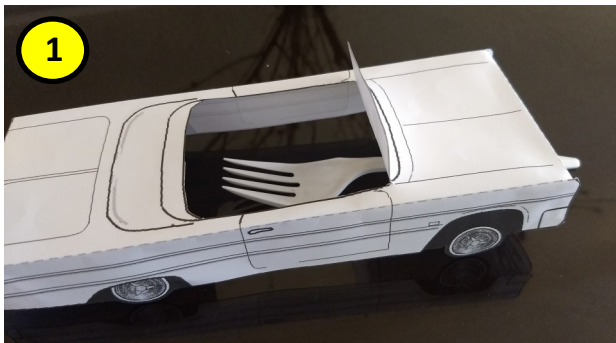
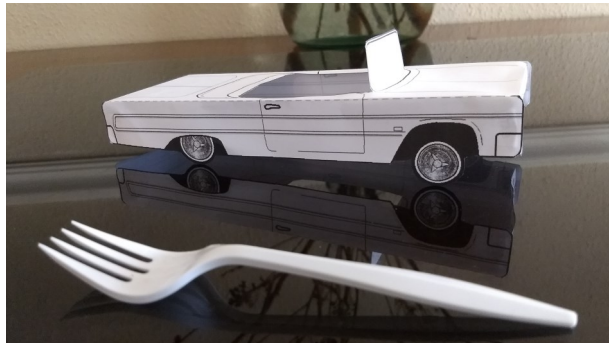
Hittin' Switches

Some lowriders have special switches that can make the car dance or bounce. They even have contests to see who can make their car hop the highest!

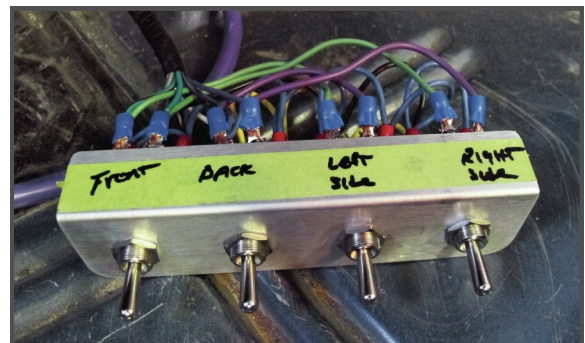


Activity:

- 1 Place your lowrider on top of a fork (your "switch").
- 2 Push the end of the fork prongs to make the front lift off the ground like a real lowrider does when it hops.



How high can you make it hop without flipping over?



References:

Chappell, B. (2012). *Lowrider space: aesthetics and politics of Mexican American custom cars*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.



Images used

Page 1:

1963 Chevrolet Impala Z11, Mecum Auctions

<https://www.mecum.com/lots/DA0912-140138/>

Lowrider Freetoedit - Lowrider Transparent, artist unknown

https://www.pngkit.com/view/u2w7a9e6i1r5e6w7_lowrider-freetoedit-lowrider-transparent/

Page 2:

1950s lowrider from "Everything Comes from the Streets" documentary

<https://remezcla.com/lists/culture/bajito-y-suavecito-a-look-back-at-lowrider-history/>

Lowriders Cruising by Aurelio Jose Barrera in The Eastsider

https://www.theeastsiderla.com/eastsider_on_the_go/arts_and_culture/lowriders-return-to-whittier-boulevard-for-a-saturday-night-of-cruising/article_bcc62538-822d-5b63-a37a-e055e8fa7ac9.html

Austin lowriders at the ESB-MACC during MexAmeriCon

<http://www.mexamericon.com/gallery.html>

Page 4:

Aztec Sun Stone, photograph by Juan Carlos Fonseca Mata

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aztec_sun_stone

La Virgen de Guadalupe, Public Domain

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Virgen_de_guadalupe1.jpg

Emiliano Zapata, Granger Historical Picture Archive/Alamy Stock Photo/Alamy Stock Photo

Lowrider Culture—"Fiestas Patrias Parade, South Park, Seattle, 2015 - 358 - lowriders", photograph by Joe Mabel

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fiestas_Patrias_Parade,_South_Park,_Seattle,_2015_-_358_-_lowriders_\(21403531350\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fiestas_Patrias_Parade,_South_Park,_Seattle,_2015_-_358_-_lowriders_(21403531350).jpg)

Lowrider painted with images of lowriders, photograph by Dani Matias

<https://www.kut.org/post/austin-car-clubs-give-community-lift>

Aztec-themed trunk mural, Lowrider.com

<https://www.lowrider.com/rides/cars/1953-chevy-210-high-school-sweetheart/>

La Virgen de Guadalupe hood mural, photo by Theresa Cisneros

<https://www.ocregister.com/2011/09/19/car-show-highlights-fiestas-patrias-weekend/>

Emiliano Zapata visor mural, photograph by Sal Rojas

<http://photopost.brownpride.com/showphoto.php?photo=28623&title=zapata-lowrider-mural&cat=502>

Page 6:

Lowrider hopping, photograph by Nathanael Turner

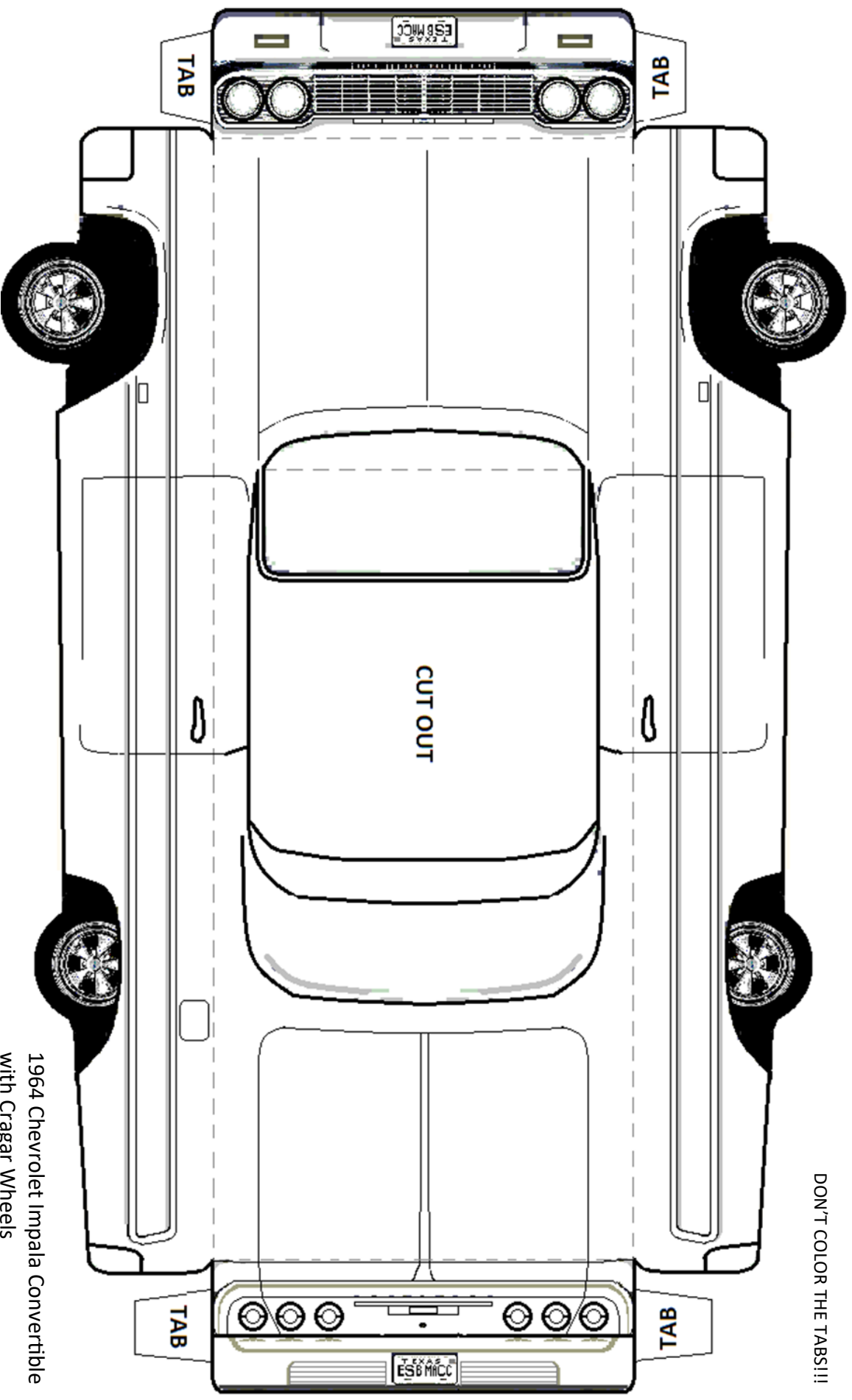
<https://www.businessinsider.com/nathanael-turners-photos-of-the-los-angeles-lowrider-convention-photos-2014-4>

Lowrider switch panel, lowrider.com

<https://www.lowrider.com/how-to-tech/chassis-suspension/1110-lrmp-black-magic-hydraulics-set-up/>

All other images by Futa 'Ofamo'oni

DON'T COLOR THE TABS!!!



Instructions:

Cut out Template, including the middle section labelled "CUT OUT"

Fold along the dotted lines to form into a box

Color and draw on any patterns or murals, making sure not to color the sections marked "TAB"

Re-fold dotted lines, then fold the Tabs so that they sit underneath the closest side

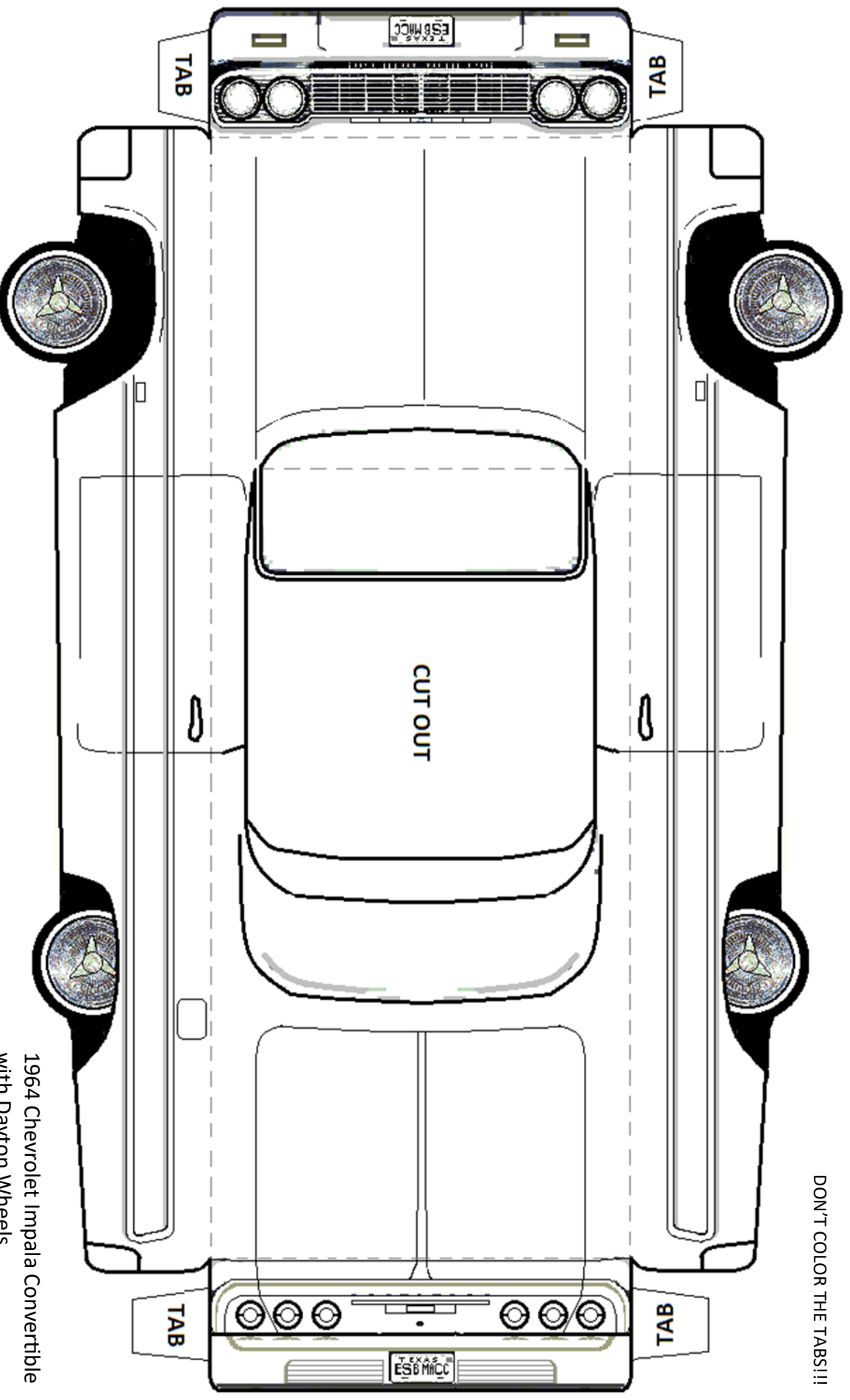
Apply glue to the top of the sections marked "TAB" and glue behind the closest side of the model

Fold up the windshield piece

Difficulty: Easy

1964 Chevrolet Impala Convertible
with Cragar Wheels

DON'T COLOR THE TABS!!!



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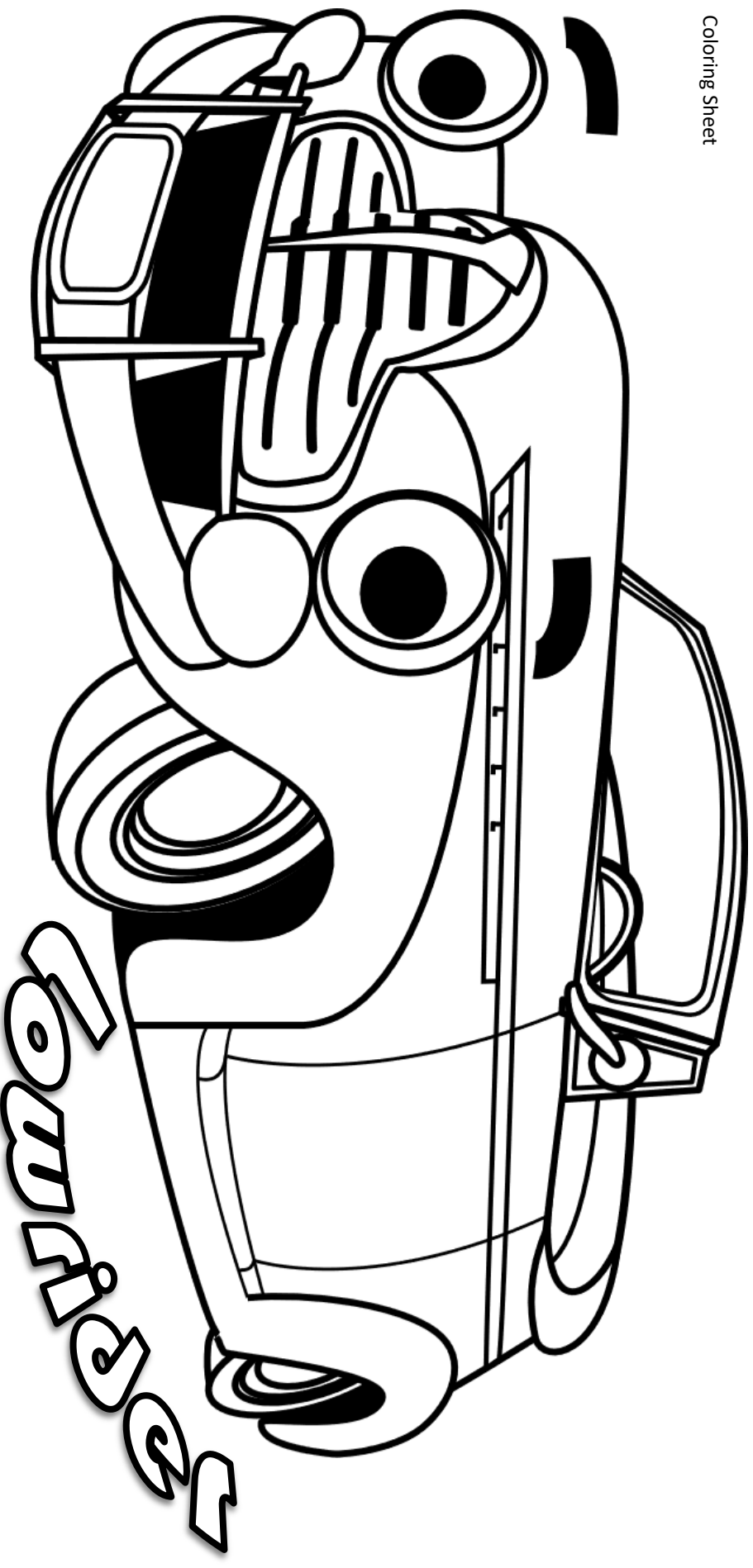
Re-fold dotted lines, then fold the Tabs so that they sit underneath the closest side

Apply glue to the top of the sections marked "TAB" and glue behind the closest side of the model

Fold up the windshield piece

Difficulty: Easy

1964 Chevrolet Impala Convertible
with Dayton Wheels



Lowriders are cars with **lowered bodies** that may have all kinds of cool modifications, like **fancy wheels**, **custom paint**, and **switches** that can make the car bounce, hop, dance, or drive on three wheels! They were first created by **Chicanxs** in **California** and later **Texas** and the **Southwest**.

What colors, patterns, or pictures will you put on yours?