Curriculum Title: **Lowrider Paper Model**

**Time:** 90 minutes  
**Ages/Group:** 5-7  
**Medium:** Paper, markers/coloring pencils/crayons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOALS/OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>To give students an appreciation of Lowrider cars as a cultural artform</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How do these goals preserve, create, present or promote cultural arts of Mexican Americans or other Latin@ cultures?</td>
<td>This curriculum presents and promotes the Lowrider subculture, which originated in Chicxan communities and is still heavily associated with Mexican Americans. It remains a thriving subculture in Austin.</td>
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**SUPPLIES NEEDED**
- Worksheet (below) printed on plain paper in color. Alternatively you may like to just use the digital copy.
- 1964 Impala Template (below) printed on plain white paper or cardstock
- Coloring pencils and/or markers and/or crayons
- Glue stick
- Glitter pen (optional)
- One plastic disposable fork

**AGENDA**

**Introductory Activity:**  
**Worksheets** (1 per student)  
- Read through and fill out the worksheet with your child.  
- If your child has never not seen a lowrider in a video or in real life before, you can show the first 1 minute 30 seconds of this video from youtube:  
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSj5nB-3Sls](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSj5nB-3Sls). It shows lowriding in Austin.  
You might also like to ask your child:  
  - “What did the lowrider look like?”  
  - “How was the outside painted?” “Did the car have any special designs?” “What color was it?”

**Activity 2** (Page 4): To make this matching exercise more fun, you can time your child to see how fast they match all four pictures.

**Core Activity:** Lowrider model

**Steps/Procedures:**

**Paper Models** –  
- There are two variations of the template in the file [ESB MACC Lowrider Lesson Paper Model Templates 5-7 years.pdf](https://www.esbmacc.org/downloads/ESB%20MACC%20Lowrider%20Lesson%20Paper%20Model%20Templates%205-7%20years.pdf) that you can print out.  
- The steps are shown in pictures on the worksheet and in the video. Your child may need help with the cutting and folding stages.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activity/Task</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Introductory Activity: Worksheets</td>
<td>30 mins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core Activity: Lowrider model</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
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</table>
• **Optional step:** After the model has been completely glued, use glitter pens to go over the colored sections to give the effect of “flakes” (metal flaked paint used on some lowriders). Works best over markers.

**Discussion Questions:**
- How did you decorate your lowrider?
- What do you like about the colors you chose?

**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. Instructions on worksheet and in video.

**Optional activity: Lowrider hopping contest**
Compete with your child to see who can hop the lowrider the highest off the ground without it flipping.

**Extra Vocabulary:**
- **Suspension:** The system on a car that attaches the wheels to the body of the car that helps the car drive smoothly.

**References**
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?
The first Lowriders were created by Chicanxs. That is a name that some Mexican-Americans like to call themselves and their culture. 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?
Lowriders can be painted in different ways...

...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...

...and with murals.

Murals can be of anything, but often show the owner’s Mexican, Chicanx/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.
**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?
Cut out the rough shape

Then cut up to the line with the help of an adult

Cut out the middle part

Fold along the dotted lines

Fold TABs

Glue the TABs

Fold the windshield up

And you have a lowrider!
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:**
Page 1:
1963 Chevrolet Impala Z11, Mecum Auctions
https://www.mecum.com/ lots/DA0912-140138/

Lowriders Free to Edit - 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

Lowriders Cruising by Aurelio Jose Barrera in The Eastsider

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

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

Lowrider painted with images of lowriders, photograph by Dani Matias

Aztec-themed trunk mural, Lowrider.com

La Virgen de Guadalupe hood mural, photo by Theresa Cisneros

Emiliano Zapata visor mural, photograph by Sal Rojas

Page 6:
Lowrider hopping, photograph by Nathanael Turner

Lowrider switch panel, lowrider.com

All other images by Futa ‘Ofamo’oni
Instructions:
Cut out Template, including the middle section labeled “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.”
Apply glue to the top of the sections marked “TAB” and glue behind the closest side of the model.
Refold dotted lines, then fold the tabs so that they sit underneath the closest side.
Fold along the dotted lines to form into a box.
Difficulty: Easy

DON'T COLOR THE TABS!!
Instructions:

1. Cut out the template including the middle section labeled “CUT OUT”.
2. Fold along the dotted lines to form into a box.
3. Apply glue to the top of the sections marked “TAB” and glue behind the closest side of the model.
4. Re-fold the dotted lines, then fold the tabs so that they sit underneath the closest side.
5. Color and draw any patterns or murals, making sure not to color the sections marked “TAB”.
6. Apply glue to the top of the sections marked “TAB” and glue behind the closest side of the model.
7. Fold up the windshield piece.
8. Don't color the TABs!!

Difficulty: Easy

1964 Chevrolet Impala Convertible

1964 Chevrolet Impala 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 in Texas and the Southwest. What colors, patterns, or pictures will you put on yours?