MYP-Personal Project

<p style="text-align:center">A Crocheted Creation</p>

My learning goal

I decided to challenge myself and select something new after thinking of possibilities for my hobbies. Crochet became a passion that I wanted to learn more about once I discovered it on social media. I've been seeing my grandmother and mother get together to crochet various forms and shapes, and I've been inspired by their efforts, which has inspired me to learn the basics of crocheting flat shapes. I acquire new ideas and have different designs in mind every time I scroll down my Instagram page. Crocheting in flat shapes allowed me to personalize several simple products, so I decided to learn how to crochet in the round. It keeps you occupied, and if you're looking for a gift but don't know what to acquire, it may serve as a gift idea, a mental break, and a creative escape. It was even helpful when developing an interest in crafts and enhancing my art skills. Learning new stitches or methods expands your creative possibilities. This topic has piqued my interest because it provides a chance for me to de-stress. I'm also fascinated by the usage of fabrics and the creation of works of art, as this is a unique opportunity for those who enjoy crafts and the arts to express themselves. Crocheting teaches stress and anxiety management, and knitted items can be recycled at any moment. We are employing design, thus it is related to visual art. Since it relates to my family, it also relates to my interests and hobbies outside of school. As a result, I set a learning goal for myself to learn how to crochet in the round.

Product

As a result of achieving that learning goal, I'm going to start crocheting and designing an amigurumi toy, combining my old and new crochet skills to create a one-of-a-kind design. (Amigurumi is a crochet technique for making miniature figures.) My product and learning goal are related since, in order to create my amigurumi, I'll need to go back and use my newly acquired skills in crocheting round shapes and how to complete that. I kept the global context in mind when developing my learning goal and product, which is "Personal and Cultural expression." Personal and cultural expression refers to the act of creating or manufacturing something new, in my case a creative stuffed toy design. Since I'm designing a totally new concept, my first resource will be creativity, craft, and creation. I'm hoping that

by designing a stuffed animal, my creativity will increase while choosing different colors for my design.

Product Success Criteria

When I was thinking about the success criteria for my stuffed toy, I started thinking about what my goal is. I wanted to demonstrate that I am able to design a personal stuffed toy. After that, I had to think about the size and patterns. I had to conduct research on stuffed toys in order to get additional knowledge and receive assistance. During my investigation, I discovered how to get started with my product and that I am more than capable of doing it. To manufacture an excellent quality stuffed toy, I started with a low standard and gradually raised it.

Product success criteria	Details	Success measure	Research and justification
Aesthetics: **1- My stuffed toy is stitched using harmonious colors of yarn**	Colors must be based on a color theory pattern. The complementary pattern is	I will ask my art teacher to evaluate my plan earlier than crocheting my	According to designer Wendy Gratz, colors are harmonious when using analogous, complementary, and split complementary patterns of the color wheel. To select an awesome pair (or trio) of colors, one should stick with one

	considered when the colors are on the opposite side of the color wheel, analogous if next to each other on the color wheel.	product based on my criteria.	of these patterns. Gratz, Wendy. "Color Theory 101: Selecting Yarns That Go Together." Shiny Happy World, 22 Jan. 2021, https://www.shinyhappyworld.com/2013/02/color-theory-101-selecting-yarns-that-go-together.html. Harmonizing color is one that shares the same tone and a contrasting color has an opposite tone. A neutral shade within the project anchors down the other colors. Warm neutrals that have a yellow undertone harmonize with any colors on the warm side of the color wheel. Cool neutrals harmonize with any colors on the cool side of the color wheel. Fragola, Sarah-Jayne. "How to Choose Yarn Colour Combinations." Bella Coco Crochet, 27 July 2021, https://bellacococrochet.com/how-to-choose-yarn-colour-combinations/.

Aesthetics: **2-The appearance of my work is neat and clean**	I want to be sure that my stuffed toy is crafted with skill and attention to detail. My stitches are uniform, joining is neat, and ends woven inconspicuously.	Making sure of this specific criterion will need a crochet professional "my mom" to assess my practice work based on my criteria.	According to Tullus, the techniques to improve the look of crocheted toys are the magic ring, invisible single crochet decrease, arranging the increases more evenly around the piece, making seamless lines between rounds of color changes, and sewing pieces together with mattress stitch. Tullus, Kristi. "Five Techniques to Take Your Amigurumi to the next Level." Kristi Tullus, Kristi Tullus, 28 June 2019, https://kristitullus.com/blogs/news/five-techniques-to-take-your-amigurumi-to-the-next-level. By cutting the end and weaving the end to the back of the stitches and going through several stitches, our product will be clean. (NattypatCrochet) NattypatCrochet. "Crochet Technique: Fastening off, Closing & Weaving in Ends of Crochet Amigurumi Toys." YouTube, YouTube, 14 Jan. 2013, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhQTjKmA7hE&t=23
User/Audience: **3- My stuffed toy is made for children; intended to provide them comfort and safety.**	I want to make sure that my stuffed toy is well received. Therefore it should be cute, easily held, and has a smooth tactile experience that every one youngster experiences a connection	The first users of my product will be my younger cousins. I will test my toy's appeal through a short questionnaire addressed to their parents: Does the child play with the toy frequently? Does the child have a special name for the	"The best techniques to make amigurumi cuter are to use tight tension, size down the crochet hook and use baby-like proportions when structuring the body. For the faces, indent the eyes for a more lifelike facial structure, embroider eyelashes, and add blush." (Chiang) Chiang, Julia. "6 Easy Tricks to Make Amigurumi Cuter." Little World of Whimsy, 17 July 2020, https://littleworldofwhimsy.com/6-easy-tricks-to-make-amigurumi-cuter/.

	with.	toy? Is the child to pick this toy first from amongst other toys?	
Function: 4- My stuffed toy can be maintained easily	It should also be washable, if the younger ones play with it, it will need to be washed frequently.	This specification can be tested by checking the yarn content label and stuffing material label for care instructions.	According to knitwear designer, Amanda Saladin the fiber content of the yarn will determine how easy it is to care for. Amigurumi made with acrylic yarns and synthetic blends can go into the washing machine and can even be machine-dried. Polyester stuffing is washable and non-allergenic, making it a great choice for well-loved toys. Amanda, Saladin. "Best Yarn for Amigurumi (Everything You Need to Know)." Love. Life. Yarn., 15 Nov. 2021, https://lovelifeyarn.com/best-yarn-for-amigurumi/. According to amigurumi designer, Julia Chiang, "yarn that is 50% cotton and 50% acrylic has proven to be the softest option while also being easiest to wash, with little risk of shrinking." Chiang, Julia. "Can You Wash Amigurumi?" Little World of Whimsy, 27 Dec. 2020, https://littleworldofwhimsy.com/can-you-wash-amigurumi/.

Timeline

The following timeline will contain the steps im gonna use in order to complete my final

personal project:

Dates	To-do
Second week of	**Familiarization:** -Read through the Personal Project student guide

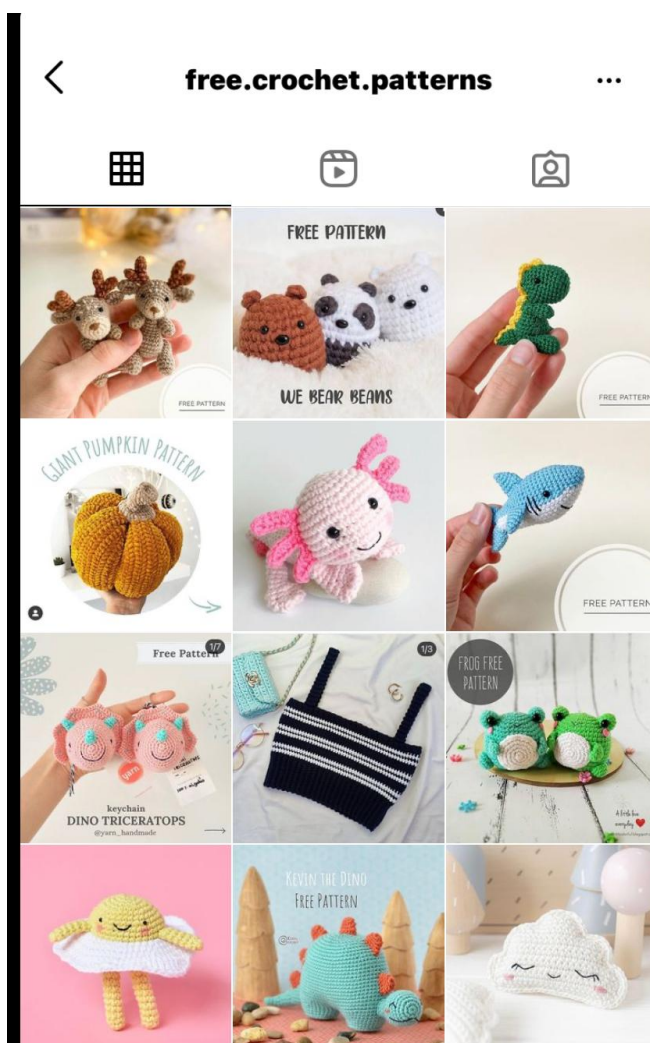| September	
Mid October 2021	**Planning:** -writing the learning goal - Intended product with detailed success criteria -detailed plan for how I aim to achieve my learning goal -Start writing the report
End of October 2021	**Research:** -complete a research about my learning goal and techniques to achieve it -summary of my research -A full bibliography showing at least five different kind of appropriate resources -Mind maps or other visual organizers showing how my research helps develop My: 1)techniques chosen 2)creation of product 3)global content focus
November December 2021 & January 2022	**Creation:** -follow the plan to achieve my learning goal and product -Development process of creation. In the appendix photographic evidence of the finished product and the process with clear labels and Captions. - Evidence of ATL skills used to achieve the learning goal - Evidence of ATL skills used to achieve the product
First week of February 2022	**Evaluation:** - Explain the impact of the project on myself or my learning - Evaluate quality of the product/outcome according to my established specifications. Consider future improvements.
February 11th, 2022 February 25th, 2022	**Reporting:** - First draft of report including all the required structure and page count (15 pages not including the bibliography) - Second draft of report including all the required structure and page count (15 pages not including the bibliography) changes according to supervisor's feedback

Plan for achieving the product:

The following timeline will contain the steps im gonna use in order to finish my product on

time:

Dates	Task	To-do	Relevant success criteria	Progress notes
Mid October 2021	Tools and Materials	Provide all the materials with which I want to work	Aesthetics	Done
end of October 2021	Round Crochet Stitches	- Learn the basic round crochet techniques and how to build up from crocheting flat to round	Aesthetics	Done
end of October 2021	Practice	- Following a pattern, learn some simple and complex shapes based on what I've learned, and start shaping the different parts of a toy.	Aesthetics	Done
Beginning of November 2021	Decoration and Stuffing	- Learn the way to change the color correctly - Learn the way to stuff crochet animals so they may be huggable and durable - Learn the way to insert safety eye	Aesthetics User Function	Done
mid November 2021	Searching for inspiration	- Chose reference for my character	Aesthetics Function	Done
Beginning of December 2021	Sketch and plan	- Draw a simple sketch to put my idea on the paper - Transform my idea into a personal, durable, lovable character - Choose a color palette and yarn quality	Aesthetics User Function Cost	Done
End of December 2021	Making the Toy: Crocheting	- Stitch a sphere for the body - Stitch eight octopus legs	Aesthetic User	done
Beginning of January 2022	Assembly	- Close and fill the body - Join the pieces together - Add additional features	Aesthetic User Function	done
End of January 2022	Final Touches	- Embroider facial features - Weaving in Ends	Aesthetic User	Done

beginning of February 2022	Final product due to supervisor			

<u>Applying skills:</u>

Achieving the learning goal-ATL skill:Research:

Thinking about how to achieve my learning goal of learning how to crochet in round, I had to conduct some research as a guide. I have visited several websites and scrolled through my instagram page in order to get some extra knowledge. When visiting several sites, I have gained more information about my chosen learning goal which made me happy and full of excitement. Before starting with my research, I had to create a research plan as following:

Research Question:
What is amigurumi?
What is the difference between amigurumi and other crochet types?
What makes a professional-looking amigurumi?

Related questions:
-What does it mean to crochet in round?
-How to crochet in a round?
-What is a magic ring?
-How to crochet a magic ring?
-How to increase/decrease crochet in the round?
-How to make color decisions?
-How to crochet proper stripes?
-How do you tell the difference between yarn types?
-Are there specific characteristics a person should have in order to start crocheting?
-How does a crocheting person choose to do a single or double bride?
-How to hide the ends?
-How to read yarn labels?
-Why are stuffed toys so soft?
-How to stuff crochet toys so they are soft and durable?

3rd source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcY8_lch2l8	A detailed video that explains how to start with your crocheted item and specifically creating a magic circle
7th source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnZDX2CDOdo&t=22s	A detailed video that contains information about ending your crocheted item and getting rid of woven ends.
11th source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1oS9PyeHgU&t=6s	A video teaching how to work with single stitches in a magic circle and having a neat work.

At the beginning of my research, I practiced joining the yarn in order to form a sphere. When I finished crocheting the sphere, I was ready to begin with the next step and start with my original product.

My research plan was very useful after finishing my research, since I was able to check that I have learned how to crochet in round and that my learning goal became true.

Excerpt from Research Plan:

The research plan I followed was useful and helped me cover all the information I wanted and helped me gain more new useful information. Such that I already knew about some information and facts but I gained extra knowledge about my topic. The first step of crocheting is to make a loop with your yarn. A person who wants to crochet should be calm and patient. In order to crochet, you should learn what a magic loop is. In order to learn about a magic loop, I visited the following link: https://youtu.be/CMPPAfXez8Q.

In order to hide the ends of my crocheted toy, I tried hiding it between stitches in a neat way and in a way for it not to show.

The following source helped me decide on the colors I need for the product and gave me new ideas:
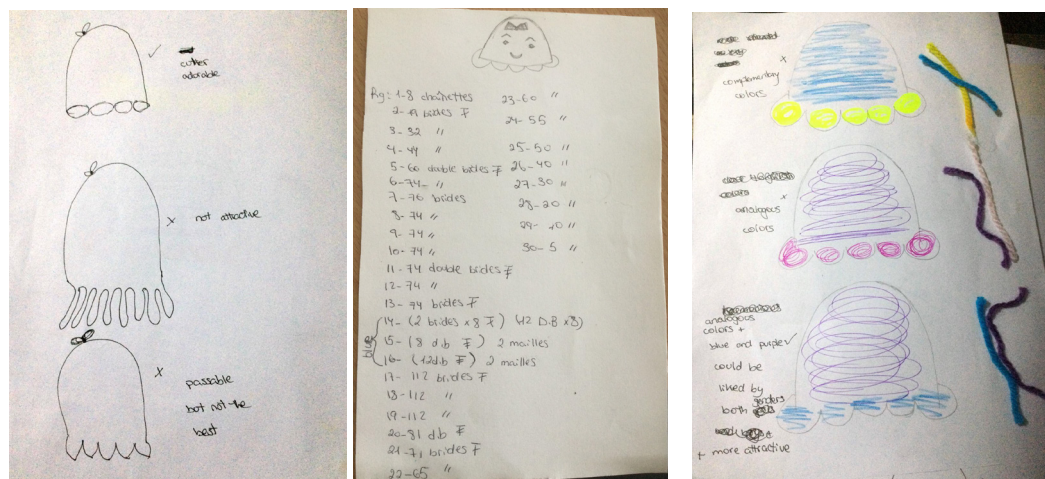
Link:

https://www.shinyhappyworld.com/2013/02/color-theory-101-selecting-yarns-that-go-together.html

Origin	This document was published on February18, 2013
Purpose	It was published in order to show the viewers the different colors found in the color theory and different types of yarns and types. The purpose of this document is very clear and the information provided are facts.
Value	The main idea of the source is "The color theory". Looking and scamming through this document helps us conclude that colors are organized in a color wheel having specific numbers and shades. They are split into analogous and complementary in the color wheel.
Content	In projects, this source is very useful because it helps you choose the specific shades for different colors. It can be applied to my projects in choosing my yarn colors and color degrees. The information provided isn't referred nor reviewed. In addition to that the author hasn't presented a particular side.
Limitations	This source is not reliable since no one reviewed it and the author is not very known but the information provided is true. In addition to that it's objective since the author didn't include their opinion. There are no political, institutional, religious, cultural, ideological, or personal biases.

Applying Skills to create a product: Thinking skills (creative thinking skills):

Those are the stitches I used for my design

When brainstorming colors, I chose blue and purple because I considered the audience and the blue yellow stitches are complementary colors, however, the other colors are analogous and match much more than other colors do. In that way it would help me with my first design and will have a positive impact on my work.

After completing the first step of researching and developing a research plan, I struggled to decide on the colors and patterns I wanted for my amigurumi. To feel more at ease, I returned to my timeline and proceeded step by step, drawing on my prior and acquired information and brainstorming ideas and different color sets. I had to think and look for different questions in order to ensure that I knew everything required. To improve my product, I went back to art and talked to my art teacher, which made it easier to keep going. To have a nice pattern for my product, I started thinking and had to make a few decisions. To make my amigurumi unique, I had to come up with impossible thoughts, though I had problems choosing my pattern but I took it in a positive way and kept going. While crocheting, I came up with different solutions and made decisions in several things that include:design,pattern,colors… With the help of social media,I went through the internet in order to have several ideas and inspiration. This specific ATL skill is connected to my product since in order to start and end my product, I will use the help of this specific ATL to make a unique toy. In addition to that, I had to generate questions specifically "what if?" questions in order to move on:

Some of the questions in mind while creating my product:
-what if a stitch was wrong?
-what if I skipped a step?
-what if the beginning was wrong and I didn't notice?
-what if I forgot where I reached?
-what if the steps I did were wrong?
-what if I was late?

Reflection: The impact of my project on my learning

From the beginning of my personal project, till now, I was pretty impressed by my work and knowledge and it created a positive impact on my learning, such that I have learned several things that include: how to design and choose colors,how to crochet in round,patience, and how to use a hook,etc…While creating my product I was a thinker and a communicator in order to generate new ideas and to connect thoughts together. From my experience in that subject, I would like to give several pieces of advice for people who haven't completed this subject before including:brainstorm your interests, put a specific plan for yourself,always search for improvements and use your research skills to fully learn about your interest,read your report daily. As for students who want to choose crochet as a topic, try crocheting while feeling anxious and check your calmness after that and never feel yourself behind. Take it in a fun way. Reaching the end of my personal project, I felt mostly proud of myself since I was able to learn something new and gained a new experience and my time was spent on something that is useful and would help me later on and at any time. After finishing my product, I realized that I have learned new skills and that the next time, my product will be more creative, such that before, I wasn't able to create round shapes and neat designs but now, there's a big difference. I was reflective at the end of the product because I searched for weaknesses I had in order to improve them in the next task.

In addition, after testing how much different ages like it and they were surprised and obsessed with the colors, I came up with a conclusion which is if it was to be a business, I would consider different genders and that boys would like specific colors and forms and girls would like pinkish colors and adorable forms.

Product Evaluation:

My product was an octopus amigurumi having 8 blue hands and a purple head and bottom. As for the ribbon, it was crocheted in a blue color, and finally the eyes and eyebrows were black. While working on my product, I kept the success criteria by my side in order to make sure that I covered all the strands needed. I can clearly say that my learning goal was useful at the end of the product and that all the new information was used to create a one kind of amigurumi. By the usage of the global context, I reached this particular product, and by the help of the ATL skills (creative thinking and research, I was able to reach this level.

Product success criteria: One point rubric

Areas of strengths	Success criteria	Areas of development
The colors of my toy were harmonious colors and the color wheel by my side while choosing the colors. Which helped me with color combinations and patterns.	**Aesthetics:** **1- My stuffed toy is stitched using harmonious colors of yarn**	Joining 2 colors was crocheted in a medium way such that they should've been crocheted in a better way.
The end of my product was well joined and my product is neat.	**2- The appearance of my work is neat**	Some stitches were far apart from each other which

	and clean	they shouldn't be so
The survey that my aunt answered was positive and my cousins preferred my amigurumi over other toys they own.	**User/Audience:** **3- My stuffed toy is made for children; intended to provide them comfort and safety.**	
When I was done with my product, I tried washing it, nothing changed which led me to make sure of the content label of the yarn I used.	**Function:** **4- My stuffed toy can be maintained easily**	

Overall Evaluation: In my opinion as a student who likes to discover new things, I felt proud of my product and that I was able to complete it keeping myself on the right track and using the specifications I suggested. However, my product was not perfect and wasn't to the highest standard, but I had put much effort to complete it and learn something new. I had several weaknesses in crochet before completing my amigurumi, reaching myself to overcome my weaknesses and move on.

Product evaluation based on my survey:

Questions:

1)Does it look nice?

2)Rate it?

3)Do you like the colors?

4)How soft is it?

5)What did you mostly like about it?

6)Did it grab your attention?

1)yes

2)10-9-7.5

3)yes-a little

4)very soft

5)colors-mouth

6)yes

Resources:

- Alexandra Churchill May 04, 2015. "Amigurumi: The Miniature Craze That Has Everyone Hooked." Martha Stewart, https://www.marthastewart.com/1113148/amigurumi-crochet-craze-has-everyone-hooked.

- AllFreeCrochetAfghanPatterns. "Why Should You Crochet?" Stitch and Unwind, Prime Publishing LLC, 21 Aug. 2014, https://www.stitchandunwind.com/why-should-you-crochet/.

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- Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). Crochet definition & meaning. Merriam-Webster. Retrieved December 4, 2021, from https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/crochet

- Mohustore. "Amigurumi Octopus Pattern This Simple Amigurumi..." Móhu, 27 Apr. 2015, https://blog.mohumohu.com/post/117524437877/amigurumi-octopus-pattern.

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- Why do you crochet? ❥ 4U // hf: Crochet quote, Knitting Quotes, crochet humor. Pinterest. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.pinterest.com/pin/99290366761790972/