

Graphic Designer: Creating a Thanksgiving Food Truck

**Adventure Description:**

In this adventure, students will think like a graphic designer and create a Thanksgiving food truck!

Activity

Step One: Background Information on Graphic Designers, Thanksgiving, and Food Trucks (10 minutes)

- Explain to students that graphic designers create visuals for different companies, by hand or on a computer. These visuals tell people about a product, like a new sandwich at a fast food restaurant, or about a service, like free ice cream at the park.
- Tell students that food trucks are an American tradition! Long ago, there were covered wagons called “chuck wagons” that served food on the streets for people to enjoy. **Show Handout: Food Trucks Over Time.** Discuss how chuck wagons were used to carry and sell food. Now, food trucks are fancy and usually have bright and attention-grabbing paint jobs.
- Explain to students that people like eating at food trucks because they are usually locally-owned, meaning that they are owned by someone who lives in the community. Food trucks usually offer a quick and easy dining experience, like fast food at a drive-thru.
- Tell students that food trucks usually have a set menu that they sell, like Mexican food or street tacos. What about a Thanksgiving food truck, that sells Thanksgiving-type food, like pumpkin pie, turkey, mashed potatoes, and cranberries?!
- Next, explain to students that Thanksgiving is a holiday that celebrates the pilgrims uniting with the Native Americans to have a feast. Read **Handout: Thanksgiving Story** to students. Discuss how Thanksgiving is a holiday that celebrates family, neighbors, and the community coming together to help one another.
- Explain to students that they will think like a food truck designer and create a Thanksgiving food truck.

Step Two: Building a Food Truck (15-20 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will now use art supplies and building materials to create a food truck.
- Divide students into pairs or small groups. Provide each group with **Handout: My Food Truck.** Explain to students that they shouldn't write on this sheet yet, but they can use the shape of the truck on the paper to create their own model of the food truck.
- Provide each group with art supplies and building materials to create their food truck. Examples of materials include:
 - Recycled materials, like cardboard and plastic containers
 - Tape and scissors
 - Construction paper, scrap paper, newspaper
- Give students 15-20 minutes to create their food trucks. Remind students that their food trucks should have basic parts, like a windshield, wheels, and the box where the food is made.

Please contact Allison Bischoff, Director of Teacher Support, at allison@rozzylearningcompany.com or 314-272-2560 with questions.

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Step 3: Designing Food Truck Art (20-30 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will now design their food trucks to decorate them for Thanksgiving.
- Tell students that they will be using the drawing of the food truck on their handout to design what their food truck will look like.
Explain that food trucks are often decorated with the following:
 - Pictures of the food that the food truck sells
 - Words that describe the food (like delicious or yummy)
 - The name of the food truck
 - Lots of colors
 - Their food truck can also have Thanksgiving words, like grateful or thankful
- Have students spend 5-10 minutes brainstorming their designs on the handout.
- When students are finished brainstorming, have them draw and color their designs on their food truck model!
- Have a concluding class discussion about how graphic designers create designs for different products, including food trucks!

Materials List

Provided online:

- Handout: Food Trucks Over Time
- Handout: Thanksgiving Story
- Handout: My Food Truck

Not provided (each student or group needs):

- Art supplies (crayons, colored pencils, construction paper, markers)
- Building supplies (cardboard, plastic containers, scrap paper)
- Tape and scissors

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