

ILLUMINATED LETTERS

You can find this video link on the SCA website under the tab **Student Links** followed by **Art**. Then look for your grade & click on the **Illuminated Letters** project link. There you will be linked to a youtube video.

Watch the video & answer the following questions:

Step 1 Using a ruler draw a line _____ in from all 4 sides of the 9x12 sheet of multi-media paper to create a frame.

Step 2 Using a ruler again, draw another _____ 1 inch in front the first lines to create a boarder

Step 3 In Medieval times there are 2 popular illuminated letter _____. Roman and Uncial

ROMAN

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
a b c d e f g h i j k l m
n o p q r s t u v w x y z
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ! ? #

UNCIAL

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
a b c d e f g h i j k l m
n o p q r s t u v w x y z
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ! ? #

Step 4 Decide on a theme and choose a letter that goes with your theme. Draw your letter inside the frame. Make part of your letter come _____ of the inside box.

Step 5 Add a _____ to give your letter some flair.

Step 6 Design inside the border frame; *embellish it with _____, fruits, ribbons, vines, ropes and scrolls.

Step 7 Draw a design inside the _____.

Step 8 Outline the design with and ultra-fine _____.

Step 9 Illuminate the design with _____ gold paint.

Step 10 Use colored _____ to color in the design.

*Embellish - a decorative detail or feature added to something to make it more attractive

A Lesson on **Illuminated Letters**

An illumination is an EMBELLISHMENT, or additional decoration that enhances the pages of a written, or manuscript page. The term, Illumination comes from the term Illuminate, or to fill with light. This effect is achieved with the application of gold leaf to the letters and images, which reflect light and appear to glow.

Because the recording of historical events was such an important task, illuminations were ordered by Kings and religious leaders to be added to various pages in order to add interest and importance to their appearance. An illuminated letter was usually the first letter of a page or paragraph. It was always enlarged and in color with gold applied in areas, while the rest of the text remained black. The images used to enhance the letters include animals, plants, and mythological creatures. These images were modified to fit into or around the letter, or in some cases took on the shape of the letter itself.

The Egyptians were the first culture known to document events by use of Illuminated Manuscripts. One of the most famous being the Book Of The Dead that dates back to 1310 B.C.

By the 7th century, Illuminations became a highly respected Art form. At this time some of the most beautiful and famous illuminations were now being created in Ireland and England.

UNCIAL

5 **A B C D E F G H I**
post angle 20°
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 . , ; ! ?
J K L M N O P Q R
S T U V W X Y Z

ROMANS

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
a b c d e f g h i j k l m
n o p q r s t u v w x y z
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ! ? †