

Kindergarten / 1st grade Lessons

Mainly focusing on 3 elements: line, shape and color. Observing and drawing with shapes, using a variety of lines styles, and mixing colors to make other colors, as well as developing fine motor skills. Most of these lessons can be done in 1 session.

- **Treasure Map/Neighborhood Map:** Create a map using various kinds of lines and shapes. Share “My Map Book” by Sara Fanelli
- **What is Art? / Am I An Artist?:** Read “The Dot” by Peter H. Reynolds. Share Kandinsky’s circles. Create circles with primary colors, then assemble into larger compositions.
- **Mixing Primary Colors:** Read “Mix It Up” by Hervé Tullet, mix primary colors into secondary colors and create a rainbow painting.
- **Castle Collage:** Share Paul Klee’s “Castle in the Sun” and photos of real castles. Discuss shapes and forms. Create cut paper collage landscape with castle.
- **Faces with Expression:** Read “My Many Colored Days” by Dr. Seuss. Discuss how colors show emotion. Paint a self portrait using colors that show how you feel. Add lines to show your facial expression.
- **Fruit & Vegetable Still Life:** Share “Patient for Pumpkins” by Linda Knoll. Using shapes and primary color paints, create a still life by mixing colors. Discuss placement in front or behind to create space.
- **Animal Portraits:** Share “Over in the Valley” by Linda Knoll. After observing photos of an animal, use basic geometric and organic shapes to draw or paint a Valley animal.
- **O’Keeffe Flowers:** Share life and work of Georgia O’Keeffe. Create large flower compositions with paint. Observation of real flowers.
- **Creativity with a Box:** Share “Not a Box” by Antionette Portis. Use a box (square) to start a creative composition.
- **Textured Pinch Pot or Plaque:** Students learn about pinching and rolling coils with clay to construct a pot or plaque, then add detail and texture.
- **Drawing Moving People:** Students see and discuss works of art that show people doing everyday things. They learn about drawing people with movement, and expression.
- **Classroom Counting Book:** Each student will create a drawing or painting to illustrate a given number, then the pages will be assembled into a classroom book.
- **Desert Sand Painting:** Using colored sand and model magic, students create a 3-dimensional desert landscape painting. 1 session

2nd grade / 3rd grade Lessons

Introducing the elements value and form and space. Observational drawing, principal of design including pattern and balance. Continuing focus on line, shape, color and texture.

- **Kandinsky Abstract:** Using various styles and weights of lines, create an abstract composition. Fill created shapes with colors, mixing primary into secondary. 1 session
- **Symmetrical Beetle or Butterfly:** Discuss symmetry, then create an insect with a symmetrical design. Share “Summer Birds” by Margarita Engle and discuss science/art of Maria Merian. 2 sessions.
- **Textured Bird Collage:** Create background with leaf rubbings. Using texture rubbing plates, create texture and color, then cut shapes to create a collage bird. Science connection: discuss bird adaptations and have students create beaks and feet depending on the type of bird. 1 session.
- **Stained Glass Hand:** Study color wheel and warm and cool colors. Using a hand tracing, divide paper into sections, painting hand warm, and background cool. 1 session
- **Eric Carlé Collage:** Create texture and pattern on painted paper. Cut shapes from painted designs to create a collage. 2 sessions.
- **Local Landscape:** Share “Over in the Valley” by Linda Knoll. Students paint a Valley landscape with foreground, middle ground, background. 1 session
- **Animal Portraits:** Share “Over in the Valley” by Linda Knoll. After observing photos of an animal, use geometric and organic shapes to draw or paint a Valley animal. Add line and texture for details. 1 session
- **3d Paper Sculpture:** Students create an imaginary playground using 3-dimensional paper sculpture techniques. 1 session
- **Collage of Natural Objects:** Discussion of art mediums, rock paintings and art in the landscape. Students create a composition using natural materials. Subject to availability of materials. 1 session
- **Value Painting:** Using tempera paint, one color plus black and white, students mix to create different values (light and dark) of the color. Winter trees or seascape with whale. 1 session
- **Clay Animal:** Share information on traditional clay sculpture that uses animal imagery, then create a small clay animal. (Allow 2nd session if painting dried sculptures)
- **Patterns and Warm/Cool Colors:** Using white glue, students create a drawing with lines and pattern on black paper. After drying, pastel is added in warm and cool colors. 2 sessions
- **Winter Trees and Rainbow:** Students create a tree portrait with masking tape, then create a rainbow watercolor background and add salt texture. 1 session
- **Plaster Hand Sculpture:** Students use plaster covered gauze and their own hand to create a plaster sculpture, which then can be personalized with paint. 2 sessions
- **Corn Husk Doll:** Students will create a simple, traditional corn husk doll and learn about their historical significance. 1 session

4th grade / 5th grade Lessons

Continued work with all elements, focusing on value and shading techniques with various media as well as techniques for creating space. Continuing use of principles of design: pattern, balance and introduction of contrast, movement and rhythm.

- **Observational Drawing:** Closely observe, then draw starfish, sand dollars, sea shells or other natural objects. Using shading, pattern to add detail. Connections to scientific illustration. 1-3 sessions
- **Light and Shadow:** Study ways of creating value and shading on 3d forms in different mediums. Continue this lesson with Shark! and/or Creative Robots. 1 session
- **Creative Robots:** Using a variety of shaded forms to create an imaginary robot or creature with charcoal. Light and shadow is prerequisite. 1 session
- **Self Portrait:** Using correct facial proportion, students draw themselves. Can be done as a portrait of someone else, such as a historical figure. Color or black and white with value. 2 sessions
- **Notan:** A fun, creative cut paper collage showing positive/negative space and contrast. 1 session
- **California Landscapes:** Take a look at California landscape painters (Bierstadt, Theibaud), then paint the geographic regions: coast, Sierra Nevada, valley, desert or state parks. 2-4 sessions
- **Watercolor Universe:** Create an abstract inspired by study of planets, stars and celestial objects using pastel resist and watercolor. 1 session
- **“Zentangle” Doodles:** Create patterns and textures in black and white to make a detailed “doodle” drawing with rhythm. 2 sessions
- **Pastry Painting:** Create a Wayne Theibaud style pastel drawing of cupcakes, pie or cake pops using shading, and creative color. Look at work of other California artists. 2 sessions
- **Art/Music Connection:** Students listen to various types of music while drawing how they feel, and showing the movement, pattern and rhythm of the music in abstract art. (Kandinsky) 1 session
- **Native American Animal Totems:** Students decide what animal traits represent themselves, then create a “totem” animal sculpture from polymer clay. 2 sessions
- **Clay Vessel:** Share the book “Dave the Potter” or “The Pot that Juan Built” and discuss the role of traditional clay vessels. Create a clay pot using coils and slip. 2 sessions
- **Clay Pinch Pot Monster:** Create a unique “monster” by combining different features, learning to work with traditional clay medium. Extend with narrative stories about the monster and its habitat.
- **Basket Weaving:** Students use yarn or raffia to weave a shallow basket using a paper plate loom. Connections are made to Native American baskets. (2-3 sessions).
- **Plaster Hand Sculpture or Mask:** Students use plaster covered gauze and their own hand or face to create a plaster sculpture, which then can be personalized with paint. 2 sessions

6th Grade Lessons

Focusing on various styles of art, self expression and principals of art including proportion and perspective. Continued use of all elements and principles of design.

- **Surrealist Eye:** Study Rene Magritte's "False Mirror" and create your own "eye" with self expression using pastels and watercolors. 1 session
- **Birdseye Cityscape:** Using one point perspective, draw a cityscape from a bird's eye view. 1 session
- **Candyland:** Lollipop trees, chocolate rivers and gumdrop bushes dominate this landscape using one point perspective. 2 sessions
- **Contour Shoes:** Observational drawing of students' own shoes, and transforming into colorful expressive designs. 1 or 2 sessions
- **Op Art Exploration:** Victor Vassarely and Bridget Riley on optical illusion and shading. Wiggly line op art, hand with lines and poetry, study of representational vs abstract vs non objective. 1 session for black and white, 2 sessions add color.
- **Mandala:** Look at traditional Indian art and create an expressive mandala with radial symmetry, balance. 1 session
- **Native American Animal Totems:** Students decide what animal traits represent themselves, then create a "totem" animal sculpture from polymer clay. 2 sessions
- **Day of the Dead Skeleton:** Study the Day of the Dead art tradition, and draw a skeletal self portrait using correct body proportion. 2 sessions
- **Mask Making:** Study mask making traditions from various cultures, create an expressive plaster mask formed on their own face. Decorate with paint and various objects. 2-3 sessions
- **Art of the Modern Masters:** Students learn about styles and artists from the late 1800s to mid-1900s, then use the techniques and style of the artists as inspiration for their own paintings. 1 or more sessions (1 artist each session)
- **Surrealist Collage:** Using magazine photos and various paper, students combine images to create unexpected relationships that show a theme or story within the composition. 1 session
- **Postcard Home:** Students observe paintings of scenes from foreign places, then describe their surroundings in a postcard home. The students re-create the scene on the picture side of the postcard. 1 session
- **Easy Printmaking:** Using a styrofoam plate, students design an image that will be printed using ink. Can be printed on t-shirts with fabric ink. 1 or 2 sessions
- **Rubber Stamp Design:** Using a soft rubber plate, students design, then carve their own logo, then stamp onto notecards or "business" cards. 2 sessions
- **Wire Tree Sculpture:** After discussing the themes in Dr. Seuss' "The Lorax", students create a "truffula" tree out of aluminum wire. 1 session
- **Oaxacan Wood Carving:** Students use a soft balsa foam carving material to create a small animal sculpture, which can then be painted in the traditional style. 2 sessions