

## 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.

- **Rainbow Painting:** 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 geometric 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 Modesto author/illustrator, Linda Knoll. Using shapes and primary color paints, create a still life in secondary colors by mixing paint. Discuss placement in front or behind to create space. 1 session
- **Animal Portraits:** Share “Over in the Valley” by Modesto author/illustrator, Linda Knoll. After observing photos of an animal, use basic geometric and organic shapes to draw or paint a Valley animal. 1 session
- **O’Keeffe Flowers:** Share life and work of Georgia O’Keeffe. When possible, we’ll observe some real flowers, then create large flower compositions with paint. 1 session
- **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. In a second session, students may paint their clay creations. 1 or 2 sessions
- **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. 1 session
- **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. 1 session
- **Action Painting:** Look at the works of Jackson Pollock, then using marbles and other tools, we’ll push and pull the paint into an abstract painting of lines and shapes. 1 session
- **Gyotaku Fish Printing:** We’ll paint a watery background, talking about fish habitat, then in a second session, students will print a fish onto the background using rubber fish and ink. 1 or 2 sessions
- **3D paper sculpture:** Using a variety of bright construction paper, students will create a 3D sculpture with different types of lines and shapes. 1 session
- **Simple printmaking:** Students will use lines, shapes and textures to create a picture on a styrofoam printing plate, then will ink and print the image onto a colorful paper. 1 session
- **Treasure Map/Neighborhood Map:** Create a map using various kinds of lines and shapes. Share “My Map Book” by Sara Fanelli, or map one of your favorite stories. 1 session
- **Paper Weaving:** Students learn the basics of weaving — loom, warp, weft — using colorful construction paper. 1 session
- **Model Magic Creatures:** Students will use neat and easy Model Magic clay to form animals, bugs or monsters, learning the difference between 2D and 3D art.

## 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, students create an abstract composition filled with shapes and colors, while learning about artist, Vasily Kandinsky. 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. Use pastel, watercolor or easy printmaking mediums. 1 session.
- **Bird Study:** Discuss bird adaptations — beaks and feet of different types of birds. Create a drawing, painting or collage of various kinds of birds. 1 session
- **Eric Carlé Collage:** Create texture and pattern, painting sheets of paper that will later be used for collage. Cut shapes from painted designs to create a collage. 2 sessions.
- **Local Landscape:** Share “Over in the Valley” by Modesto author/illustrator, Linda Knoll. Students paint a Valley landscape with foreground, middle ground, background. 1 session
- **Animal Portraits:** Share “Over in the Valley” by Modesto author/illustrator, Linda Knoll. After observing photos of an animal, use geometric and organic shapes to draw or paint an animal. Add line and texture for details. 1 session
- **3d Paper Sculpture:** Students create an imaginary playground or other outdoor scene using 3-dimensional paper sculpture techniques. 1 session
- **Seascape/Cityscape Value Painting:** Using tempera paint of one color plus black and white, students mix to create different values (light and dark) of the color. 1 session
- **Pinch Pot Clay Monster:** Students brainstorm monster features, then create a cute pinch pot monster with air dry clay. Allow 2nd session for painting. Extend the lesson by creating a comic strip or story about their monster.
- **Glued Lines and Patterns:** Using white glue, students create a drawing with lines and pattern on black paper. After drying, soft pastel is added in warm and cool colors. Topics can include animals, fossils, or abstract shapes and patterns. 2 sessions
- **Winter Trees and Rainbow:** Students create a tree portrait with masking tape, then paint a rainbow watercolor background and added salt special effects. 1 session
- **Corn Husk Doll:** Students will create a simple, traditional corn husk doll and learn about their historical significance. 1 session
- **“Zentangle” Doodles:** Create patterns and textures in black and white to make a detailed “doodle” drawing with rhythm. 2 sessions
- **Simple printmaking:** Students will use lines, shapes and textures to create a picture on a styrofoam printing plate, then will ink and print the image onto a colorful paper. 1 session
- **Self Portrait Painting:** Using oil pastel and watercolor, students will learn the basics of drawing a face, and will add features that look like themselves.
- **Quilt Arts and Stories:** Students will look at the quilting tradition, either by reading “Tar Beach” by Faith Ringgold, or looking at the quilts of Gees Bend. Students will make a quilt square with paper (or fabric if available). 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.

- **Light and Shadow:** Study ways of creating value and shading on geometric 3d forms in different mediums. We'll use those forms to create an imaginative drawing. 1 session
- **Observational Drawing/Scientific Illustration:** Closely observe, then draw sea shells, flowers or other natural objects. Using shading, pattern to add detail. 1-2 sessions
- **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. 1 or 2 sessions. Recommend Light and Shadow as prerequisite.
- **Notan:** A fun, creative cut paper collage showing positive/negative space and contrast. 1 session
- **California/U.S. Landscapes:** Take a look at California landscape painters (Bierstadt, Thiebaud), then paint the geographic regions: coast, Sierra Nevada, valley, desert or state or national parks. 1-4 sessions (one for each region).
- **Watercolor Universe:** Create an abstract inspired by study of planets, stars and celestial objects using pastel resist and watercolor. May add 3D planets with Model Magic clay. 1 or 2 sessions.
- **Painted Paper Collage:** In the first session, students will paint patterns and textures with tempera paint. The second session will use the painted papers to create a cut paper collage, similar to the style of Eric Carle. Many possible subjects. 2+ sessions.
- **The Great Wave:** Students will learn about the Japanese tradition of wood block printing, then will create a painting of "The Great Wave" using oil pastel and watercolor. 1 session
- **Pastry Painting:** Create a Wayne Thiebaud style pastel drawing of cupcakes, pie or cake pops using shading, and creative color. 1 or 2 sessions depending on size and detail.
- **Tree of Life Painting:** Using the art of Gustav Klimt as inspiration, students will paint a golden tree and landscape with spirals and jewels. 1 session
- **Native American Animal Totems:** Students decide what animal traits represent themselves, then create a "totem" animal drawing and 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 clay (air dry). Extend with narrative stories about the monster and its habitat.
- **Basket Weaving:** Students use yarn or raffia to weave a basket using a paper plate loom. Students learn terms of weaving — loom, warp, weft. Connections are made to Native American baskets. 2-3 sessions.
- **Plaster Sculpture:** Students use plaster covered gauze over a wire armature (or their own hand) to create a plaster sculpture, which then can be personalized with tempera paint. 2 sessions
- **Wire Tree Sculpture:** After discussing the environmental themes in Dr. Seuss' "The Lorax", students create a "truffula" tree sculpture out of aluminum wire. 1 session

## 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
- **One Point Perspective:** Learn about the concept of the vanishing point while creating a painting from a particular point of view. 1 session
- **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 and Tibetan art and create an expressive mandala with radial symmetry and balance. With access to computers, this can be done as a tech lesson. 1 session
- **Day of the Dead Skull or Skeleton:** Study the Day of the Dead art tradition, and draw a skeletal self portrait using correct body proportion OR a "sugar" skull. Can be done with oil pastel or tempera paint. 1-2 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: Picasso, Matisse, VanGogh, Delaunay, Pollock, Klimt, Kahlo, Rivera, Kandinsky, O'Keefe, Monet, Cezanne, Rousseau, etc.)
- **Rubber Stamp Design:** Using a soft rubber plate, students design, then carve their own logo, then stamp onto notecards or "business" cards. 2 sessions
- **Oaxacan Wood Carving:** Students use a soft balsa foam carving material to create a small animal or Alebrijes sculpture, which can then be painted in the traditional style. 2-3 sessions
- **Cartooning and Character Development:** Students design their own comic style character, then put it into a multiple panel comic strip. 2 sessions
- **Observational Drawing/Scientific Illustration:** Closely observe, then draw sea shells, flowers, closeup eye or other natural objects. Using shading, pattern to add detail. 1-2 sessions
- **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. 1 or 2 sessions. Recommend Light and Shadow as prerequisite.
- **Picasso Cut Paper Portrait:** Students will learn about the cubist style of Pablo Picasso, then create a portrait from cut paper, embellished with oil pastel. 1 session
- **Plaster Mask:** Using plaster infused gauze, students create a mask over their own face. In the second session, examples from various cultures will be discussed and the students decorate their masks with paint and other embellishments. 2 sessions.
- **Repoussé Metal Tooling:** Students use aluminum tooling foil to create a relief sculpture with a traditional Mayan symbol, then mount it on a decorated mat paper. 2 sessions

## STEAM Lesson Ideas

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math: Ideas in the sciences connect with art in many ways! Use these lessons and *Design Thinking* to explore that relationship. Most (please ask if appropriate for your grade) can be adapted to any grade level.

- **Paint a Rainbow** (color theory/science) mix primary colors into secondary colors and create a rainbow painting. 1 session
- **Clouds and the Water Cycle:** Draw or paint clouds of different kinds, in a landscape that illustrates the water cycle. 1 session
- **Animal Drawing** (fur, feathers, scales) 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. Different textures are used to create a variety of animal coverings. 1 session
- **Symmetrical Beetle or Butterfly:** Discuss symmetry, then create an insect with a symmetrical design. 1 or 2 sessions.
- **Bird Drawing or Sculpture** (beaks and feet adaptations) observe birds, talk about adaptation to their environment, and draw it or sculpt it out of model magic clay. 1 session
- **3d Playground Paper Sculpture:** Students create an imaginary playground using 3-dimensional paper sculpture techniques. (engineering) 1 session
- **Build a Pyramid:** Look at the ancient Egyptian pyramids, discuss the significance of triangle structures, then create one with toothpicks and gumdrops (architecture/engineering). 1 session
- **Mandala:** Drawing on computers or paper, students will learn about the Tibetan tradition of mandalas, then create one using radial symmetry. (math, technology) 1 session
- **Geometric Shape Collage:** Create a collage in the style of Paul Klee using geometric paper shapes. (Math) 1 session
- **Marbled Paper:** Color mixing using watercolor paint floated on shaving cream, then swirled for marbling/mixing effects. (color theory) 1 session
- **Watercolor Universe:** Create an painting inspired by study of planets, stars and celestial objects using pastel and watercolor. (astronomy) 1 session
- **Spiral Zentangle:** using the Fibonacci Sequence, create a spiral, then draw patterns and decorations to create an abstract drawing. (math) 1 session
- **Observational Drawing/Scientific Illustration:** Closely observe, then draw sea shells, flowers or other natural objects. Using shading, pattern to add detail. 1 or 2 sessions
- **Light and Shadow:** Study ways of creating value and shading on 3d forms in different mediums. 1 session
- **Gyotaku Fish Printing:** We’ll paint a watery background, talking about fish habitat, then in a second session, students will print a fish onto the background using rubber fish and ink. 2 sessions
- **Fossil Patterns:** Using white glue, students create a drawing inspired by fossils, with lines and pattern on black paper. After drying, pastel is added in warm and cool colors. 2 sessions