

**GELLI** ARTS<sup>®</sup>

**MADE**

**LESSON  
PLANS**

**Lesson Plans  
Grades 1-4**



The Original Gel Printing Plate

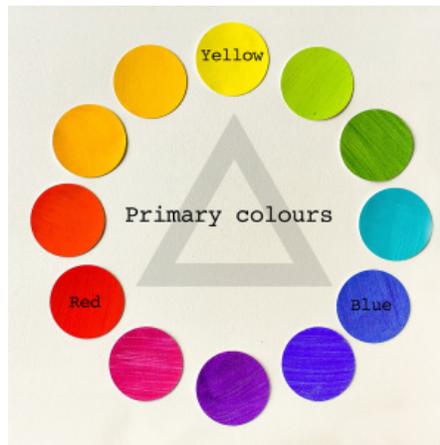
Gelli Arts LLC  
525 S. 4th Street Suite 246  
Philadelphia, PA 19147

Phone: (267) 457-3119  
info@gelliarts.com

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# Color Mixing

with Marsha Valk

## OBJECTIVE

- Students Will Be Able To (SWBAT) master color mixing
- SWBAT demonstrate different color theory techniques

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- How are colors mixed?
- What colors can be created by mixing certain combinations?

## VOCABULARY

- Primary Colors – Blue, Red, Yellow
- Secondary Colors – Green, Purple, Orange
- Monochromatic – Containing or using only one color
- Analogous – Groups of three colors that are next to each other on the color wheel
- Complementary – Pairs of colors which, when combined or mixed, cancel each other out. These colors also sit on opposing ends of the color wheel
- Triadic – Color scheme is comprised of three colors evenly spaced on the color wheel

## MOTIVATION AND SUGGESTION

- Using quality paints helps with the success of color mixing. Secondly, intuitively or consciously, we use the basic principles of color theory.
- Color theory doesn't have to be hard. Even basic knowledge of the primary and secondary colors goes a long way.
- However, a color wheel can be a handy tool to have because it not only tells you exactly what color you're going to get when you mix two colors together, but also which color combinations work best.

## EDUCATIONAL VIDEO

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0\\_cJUOFJew](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0_cJUOFJew)

- How do you mix on a Gelli Arts® plate?
- What are primary colors?
- What are secondary colors?

## SUPPLIES

- Gelli Arts® gel printing plate
- Brayer
- Acrylic paint (need Red, Blue, Yellow)
- Paper



# Wax Crayon Resist

with Joan Bess

## OBJECTIVE

- Students Will Be Able To (SWBAT) create wax resisted monoprints
- SWBAT define the work “resist” after learning through doing

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- How can you use wax and paint together in your art?
- Draw multiple designs and patterns using crayons

## SUPPLIES

- Gelli Arts® gel printing plate
- Brayer
- Acrylic paint
- Palette knife
- Paper
- Crayons
- Stencils
- Texture tools

## STEP-BY-STEP

- **Step 1:** First, you have to draw doodles, lines, and/or shapes on your paper. Make sure to leave some white space! Once you have made waxy marks on your paper, you're ready to print. Here's how to print for this resist technique:
- **Step 2:** Apply acrylic paint to your Gelli Arts® plate and roll into a thin layer with a brayer.
- **Step 3:** Add designs in the wet paint with printing tools.
- **Step 4:** Place your crayoned printing paper face down on the painted Gelli Arts® printing plate.
- **Step 5:** Rub the paper to transfer the paint and pull your print.
- **Step 6:** Allow the print to dry completely.
- **Step 7:** After the print is completely dry, use a palette knife to scrape the crayon off the paper.
- **Step 8:** The paint covering the crayon marks comes off as you scrape down to the waxy layer.

## MOTIVATION

Drawing with wax crayons on your printing paper before pulling a Gelli Arts® print is so much fun! This is a simple resist technique. Create colorful drawings, doodles, lines, and shapes on your blank printing paper. A heavy application of crayon will work best since you want to apply a fairly solid layer of wax. Make sure to leave some white space! If you don't want to draw freehand, you can use stencils and fill in their patterns with crayon.



# Paper Animals

with Tania Ahmed

## OBJECTIVE

- Students Will Be Able To (SWBAT) create their own paper animal out of Gelli made prints
- SWBAT manipulate Gelli Arts® cacti kit into animal prints
- SWBAT demonstrate the ability to alter a kits predetermined use for multipurposes

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- How can students make animals out of paper prints?

- Can students use prints to make animals?
- Can you use a Gelli Arts® cacti printing kit to create other things besides cacti prints?

## SUPPLIES

- Gelli Arts® Cacti Printing Kit (contains: 5×5 plate, paint pots, cardstock, brayer, popsicle sticks, texture tools)
- Glue
- Scissors
- Black marker

## STEP-BY-STEP

- *\*This lesson is created in mind that students have printed with GelliArts® printing plates before or have access to the full instructions from the Cacti printing kit.*
- **Step 1:** Create prints using the plate, brayer, texture tools and paints found within the cacti kit
- **Step 2:** Create the parts of your animal either by using the template shapes within the kit or freehand your own shapes
- **Step 3:** By using a clean piece of paper, assemble and glue all parts your animal together
- **Step 4:** Additionally, use markers to add faces or other features to your animal



# Vegetable Prints

with Birgit Koopsen

## OBJECTIVE

- Students Will Be Able TO (SWBAT) master art and mark making with the use of vegetables

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- How can vegetables be used to make art?

## SUPPLIES

- Gelli Arts® gel printing plate
- Brayer
- Acrylic paint
- Paper
- Vegetables

## STEP-BY-STEP

- **Step 1:** Start by cutting all the vegetables so they are ready for use. Of course, you can cut off only the parts you need for printing and use the rest for dinner! As soon as you start cutting your room will smell as if you're making soup! Make soup for dinner on the day you do vegetable Gelli Arts® printing. Two birds with one stone!
- **Step 2:** Next, create a bunch of colorful backgrounds using vibrant colors.
- **Step 3:** Make simple patterns using cabbage. Cut the cabbage at both the top and bottom and that will give you two very different tools. One big flower with a lot of detail and one smaller that looks like irregular nesting circles. Wrap the cabbage leaves in packing tape so they don't fall apart.
- **Step 4:** By repeating the shapes you can create simple but interesting, organic patterns.

### Specific Vegetable Tips:

Celery also creates beautiful flowers when using the end part. The stalks create a fun crescent shape – great for smaller patterns. You can also bind two stalks together with tape to create yet another pattern.

By combining vegetables like onion and celery, or adding herbs like thyme, you can create a complete “painting” of flower bulbs with flowers.

If you are using regular acrylic paint instead of open acrylics, you can add a few drops of slow-dry blending medium, so you have a bit more time to create a nice composition.

These prints can be so beautiful! They may even be worth framing. The vegetables will not affect the Gelli Arts® gel printing plates at all – not even a bad smell! Hopefully this inspires you to look at vegetables differently when grocery shopping!



# DIY Foam Printing Plate Stamps

with Joan Bess

## OBJECTIVE

- Students Will Be Able TO (SWBAT) design their own foam stamps
- SWBAT demonstrate the ability to create prints using foam stamps

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- How can students use foam to create their own stamps to print with?

## SUPPLIES

- Gelli Arts® gel printing plate
- Brayer
- Paper (cardstock, white)
- Acrylic paint
- Invoart presto foam
- Mark making tool (pencil, pen)

## STEP-BY-STEP

### Making Foam Plates

- **Step 1:** Incise lines into the pieces with your pointed tool
- **Step 2:** Cut or punch some small areas (The design can be simple shapes or as intricate as you want)
  - What you see is what you get, no reversals! You can write words, too!

### Printing a Card with Plates

- **Step 1:** Roll a thin layer of acrylic paint onto the Gelli® plate with a brayer
- **Step 2:** Press a texture tool (like bubble wrap) into the paint
- **Step 3:** Cover with your card and pull a print
- **Step 4:** Wipe the plate clean (not essential—but makes a nice clean print)
- **Step 5:** Roll a layer of a contrasting color onto the plate with a brayer
- **Step 6:** Place your foam stamps on the painted plate
- **Step 7:** Cover with thin paper (such as deli paper)—to press the stamps into the paint and remove the paint from the plate around the stamps
- **Step 8:** Remove the cover paper and remove the foam stamps
- **Step 9:** Place your printed card on the Gelli® plate to print a second layer
- **Step 10:** Rub to transfer the paint and pull your print—the second layer on your card



# Kites

with Marsha Valk

## OBJECTIVE

- Students Will Be Able To (SWBAT) create a diamond shape kite is easy to make and fun to use
- SWBAT learn how to fly a kite

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- What is a kite?
- Have you ever flown a kite?
- Draw a kite and then label as many parts of the kite that you know the names for
- Where would you travel if you could fly like a kite?

- Use your imagination or experience to write a story about flying kites

## SUPPLIES

- Finished Gelli Arts® prints made with lightweight drawing paper or deli paper, the larger the better
- 1/4" Lightweight wood dowels or bamboo sticks
- Hand saw
- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Glue stick
- Duct tape
- String

## STEP-BY-STEP

- **Step 1:** First decide on how tall you want your kite to be. This determines the length of the dowels for the spine and spar you'll need and also the measurements of the paper needed to create the sail. These will create the frame.
- For a diamond kite you need two wooden dowels with a fixed size ratio of 3:2.
- **Step 2:** Cut a little notch in each end of the dowels. This is where the string will be attached later on.
- **Step 3:** Tape the two wooden dowels together with strips of duct tape, as tight as possible. The short dowel should be placed at exactly 1/3 of the long dowel.
- **Step 4:** Run the string along the notches in the dowels. Start at the bottom and end with a little knot. Reinforce the knot with tape if necessary.
- **Step 5:** Place the kite frame on top of the paper. Cut the sail slightly larger than the kite frame.
- **Step 6:** Add glue to the seam and fold it over.
- **Step 7:** Attach a flying line to the kite and add a tale made of ribbon, fabric or paper strips. Or add a length of string with paper or fabric bows every 16".
- **Step 8:** The kite is ready to fly! Go outside and find out if it will sail!



# Coffee Filter Flowers

with Marsha Valk

## OBJECTIVE

- Students Will Be Able TO (SWBAT) adapt a household item such as coffee filters into art
- SWBAT design their own paper flower

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- How can you use coffee filters to make art?
- Can you make flowers out of coffee filters?

## SUPPLIES

- Gelli Arts® gel printing plate
- Brayer
- Acrylic paint
- Coffee filter
- Stencils
- Spray Bottle with water
- Spray inks
- Pom-poms
- Wire
- Scissors
- Glue dots or hot glue gun

## STEP-BY-STEP

- **Step 1:** Print with your Gelli Arts® printing plate on a couple of coffee filters using stencils and acrylic paint. You will need one green printed coffee filter and two or three colored printed coffee filters per flower.
- **Step 2:** Stain the Gelli Arts® printed coffee filters with spray inks. Wet the coffee filter with a spray bottle of water before you spray on the spray ink. The water will help the spray ink spread across the coffee filter.
- You can stack the coffee filters if you want to have the same color while spraying. Each new filter will absorb the excess ink from the already sprayed ones.
- **Step 3:** Leave the coffee filters to dry completely.
- **Step 4:** Fold the coffee filters into eighths (or more) and cut leaf shapes. Make sure to cut some larger and some smaller.
- **Step 5:** Unfold the coffee filters and stack two or three colored ones on top of each other.
- **Step 6:** Turn the flowers over and put a pom-pom in the middle. Fold the flowers back over the pom-pom. Secure the pom-pom with wire.
- **Step 7:** Fold the leaves back and fluff them until you are happy.
- **Step 8:** Adhere the flower on top of a green leafed coffee filter using a glue dot or a hot glue gun.



# Printed Gem Ornaments

with Marsha Valk

## OBJECTIVE

- Students Will Be Able To (SWBAT) create gem ornaments
- SWBAT recognize gem like shapes

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION

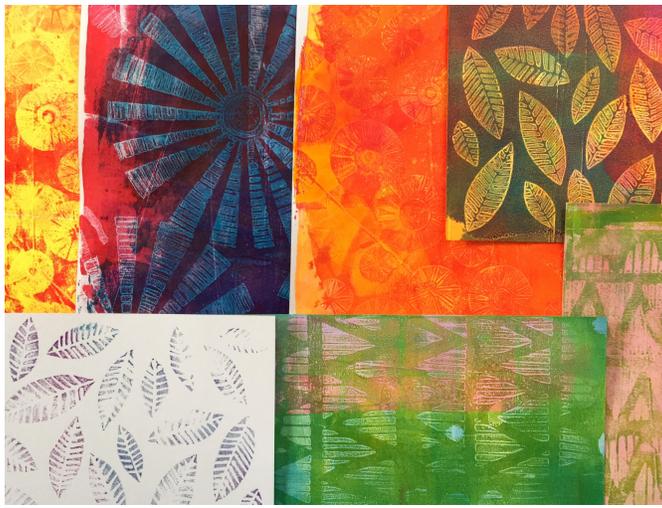
- How do you make gem like shapes from a 2D surface?

## SUPPLIES

- Gelli Arts® gel printing plate
- Brayer
- Chipboard sheets
- Acrylic paint
- Paint marker
- Round plastic canvas
- Hole punch
- Ribbon
- Beads

## STEP-BY-STEP

- **Step 1:** Take a couple of chipboard sheets and Gelli Arts® print on them – both sides. Start with prints of just blocks of color and then move on to making marks and pulling partial prints of the marks on the chipboard sheets.
- **Step 2:** Use the Gelli Arts® mini kits to stamp onto the already printed chipboard sheets with more paint. Use metallic paints for an added dimension!
- **Step 3:** Once the paint is dry, you can cut the chipboard into shapes. Use the mini plates as a template or just cut your own freehand shapes.
- **Step 4:** Transform the chipboard shapes by drawing on them to make them look like real gems. Just make sure that the pen you used to draw the gems is waterproof, so you don't smear your drawings.
- **Step 5:** Punch a hole in each gem and add a ribbon and a bead.



# Flexible Texture Plates

with Birgit Koopsen

## OBJECTIVE

- Students Will Be Able TO (SWBAT) design their own foam pattern
- SWBAT display the ability to use mark making skills to create designs in the foam

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- How can students use foam to create patterns?

## SUPPLIES

- Gelli Arts® gel printing plate
- Brayer
- Acrylic paint
- Self-adhesive craft foam
- Acetate sheets
- Embossing tool or skewer
- Scissors
- Pen or Pencil

## STEP-BY-STEP

- **Step 1:** Start with drawing shapes on the back of the foam sheets and cut them out.
- **Step 2:** Use the embossing tool or skewer to add texture to the craft foam shapes.
- **Step 3:** Apply a piece of craft foam to an acetate sheet that is just a bit bigger than the craft foam. About a ½” bigger on all sides.
- **Step 4:** Create a nice composition with the foam shapes.
- **Step 5:** To create the triangles, first add texture to a whole sheet of craft foam, then cut strips and then cut triangles from the strips. No need to draw the triangles on the back unless you want them all to be the exact same size.
- **Step 6:** You can make the plates any size or shape you want as long as you always make sure to have the acetate sheet a little bigger than the foam!
- **Step 7:** Flexible texture plates have several benefits compared to texture plates created on cardboard or wood or just using the foam.

Benefit Number One: Applying the foam to an acetate sheet will keep the plates flat, the edges will not curl and the plates will be easier to handle and store.

Benefit Number Two: Because the acetate is a little bit bigger than the foam it is easier to remove the texture plate from the Gelli Arts® printing plate without touching the paint and ruining your print. After making a print, you can use the left-over paint on the texture plates as a stamp.



# Snow Globe

with Marsha Valk

## OBJECTIVE

- Students Will Be Able To (SWBAT) create a paper snow globe
- SWBAT use a mask for printmaking

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- How do you make a snow globe out of paper?
- What elements make up a snow globe?
- What type of imagery works best for a snow globe?

## SUPPLIES

- Gelli Arts® gel printing plate
- Brayer
- Acrylic paint
- Paper
- Red construction paper
- Pencils
- Compass
- Glue stick
- Embossing folder (optional)

## STEP-BY-STEP

- **Step 1:** Draw a circle on a sheet of drawing paper and then sketch a winter scene into the circle. Keep the sketch as simple as possible: just a few basic shapes.
- **Step 2:** Cut the sketch into masks. Cut out the trees, the house, the mountains and the sky.
- **Step 3:** Take a sheet of black paper and start Gelli Arts® printing! Use the masks like a puzzle: decide which part you want to print, add the paint color you want to print with onto the plate, make marks if you want, put the mask on the plate leaving out the part you want to print and then pull the print!
- **Step 4:** Start with the trees and the house, and then move on to the mountains and the sky. Print the snowy ground last, because you may want to clean the plate before you print that part.
- **Step 5:** Be sure to line up the mask and the paper you're printing on with either the Gelli Arts® plate or the grid on your cutting mat, so you know where to place the paper each time you print another section. If your work surface doesn't have a grid, then mark it off with some washi tape that you can remove easily when done.
- **Step 6:** Cut the print into a circle and fill in the details with paint markers and pencil.
- **Step 7:** Assemble a snow globe. Take a 4" x 6" double notecard and cut a rounded edge on each side. I cut the first edge freehand and then I used the cut-off piece as a template.
- **Step 8:** Add glue to one of the new flaps and fold the card into a little stand for the snow globe. Back the print with card stock if needed and adhere it to the stand.



# Suncatcher

with Marsh Valk

## OBJECTIVE

- Students Will Be Able To (SWBAT) create a Gelli Arts® printed suncatcher
- SWBAT learn the definition of transparent through practice with the suncatcher
- SWBAT practice patience through the transfer technique
- SWBAT use the elements of line, shape, value, and color as they plan their design

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- What is transparent?
- What objects are transparent?
- How does the sun play a role in our lives?

## SUPPLIES

- Gelli Arts® printing plate
- Roller
- Newsprint
- Masking tape (to tape newsprint to table)
- Baby wipes
- Pencils
- Stencils
- Mark making tools
- Acrylic paint
- Clear contact paper or packing tape
- Transparency
- Craft foam
- Scissors
- Brushes
- Bone folder or old gift cards

## STEP-BY-STEP

- **Step 1** – Gather the acrylic paint colors, mark making tools, and stencils you want to use for this project.
- **Step 2** – Apply paint to a Gelli Arts® plate. Create a design using a stencil or mark making tools. Make sure to leave areas without paint! When you are done with the layer of your design, leave it to dry completely. The drying time ensure that you do not unintentionally smear the paint marks you just made and it also saves the background from mixing into a mud color.
- **Step 3** – Once the layer is dry, you can add another layer right on top of the first. Continue with this step until you are happy with all the layers.
- **Step 4** – It's time for one last paint layer. Using black paint for the final layer will help your design stand out and give it the look of stained glass. Add a drawing of your favorite animal or design using your finger or a paint brush.
- **Step 5** – Let all of the layers dry completely. Overnight if possible.
- **Step 6** – Cut a sheet of contact paper or packing tape to the size of your Gelli Arts® plate and place it sticky side touching all of your painted layers. Burnish it well with your bone folder or old gift cards.
- **Step 7** – Pull it from the plate as you would a print. Stick the contact paper transfer onto a transparency.
- **Step 8** – Find your suncatcher a nice window and enjoy the colorful view!