

PROJECT: Concentric Circles

SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: K-1

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- Make visual art connections to geometry
- Create abstract works of art to help students understand color, shapes, and balance
- Observe and distinguish the difference between realistic and abstract works of art
- Incorporate shapes into artwork

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- How can we observe and distinguish between realistic and abstract works of art?
- How can the study of color influence artwork we make?

KNOWLEDGE

Recognize a basic color wheel
Recognize balance in a composition
Identify primary and secondary colors

SKILLS

Label a basic color wheel
Cut lines in varying directions to make shapes
Unite lines/shapes/colors in artwork in a balanced collage

MATERIALS

- Construction Paper (Assorted Colors)
- Yoobi Glue Stick - Multi
- Yoobi Cubed Ruler
- Yoobi No. 2 Wood Pencil
- Yoobi Scissors

CA MATHEMATICS COMMON CORE STANDARDS

KINDERGARTEN

1.1 Describe objects in the environment using names of shapes, and describe the relative positions of these objects using terms such as *above, below, beside, in front of, behind, and next to*

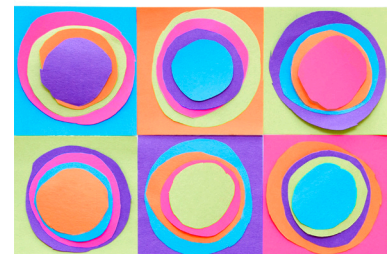
1.2 Correctly name shapes regardless of their orientations or overall size.

GRADE 1

1.1 Distinguish between defining attributes (e.g., triangles are closed and three-sided) versus non-defining attributes (e.g., color, orientation, overall size); build and draw shapes to possess defining attributes.



Squares with Concentric Circles, 1913



CA VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS STANDARDS

- KINDERGARTEN**
- 2.3 Make a collage with cut or torn paper shapes/form.
 - 2.6 Use geometric shapes/forms (circle, triangle, square) in a work of art.
- GRADE 1**
- 2.0 Plan and use variations in line, shape/form, color, and texture to communicate ideas or feelings in works of art.
 - 4.1 Discuss works of art created in the classroom, focusing on selected elements of art (e.g. shape/form, texture, line, color).

LESSON VOCABULARY

- Abstract
- Shape
- Line
- Color
- Layer
- Color Wheel
- Primary Colors
- Secondary Colors

STEP 1

SHOW/REVIEW

- Show students Kandinsky's Concentric Circles series using a projector/ printed out images.
- Ask students to analyze and interpret what they see in the series.
 - Can you see which circles look the brightest?
 - Which ones look dark?
 - Which circles do you like best? Why?
 - How does this painting make you feel?
 - What shapes do you see?
 - Are the shapes "perfect"?
- Review the basic color wheel and discuss color concepts:
 - Primary Colors: red, yellow, blue. All other colors can be made from mixing these three colors.
 - Secondary Colors: Equal amounts of two primary colors. They make orange, green, and purple.
 - Yellow + red=orange
 - Blue + yellow=green
 - Red + blue=purple

STEP 2

INSTRUCTIONAL SEQUENCE (CREATE)

- Instruct students to:
 - Start with one full-size sheet of construction paper. This will be the base of your artwork.
 - Using your ruler, measure out 6 squares from your assorted colors of construction paper that measure 4 inches wide by 4 inches tall. Make sure you use different colors for each square!
 - Glue your squares onto the paper so that they form a grid that completely covers your base paper.
 - With the remaining construction paper, cut out circles of different sizes. (Assure students no to worry if their circles aren't perfect, neither were Kandinsky's!)
 - Layer your circles on top of the squares. Encourage students to think carefully about their color choices and to move their circles around before gluing! Place the bigger ones down first and then layer smaller circles on top. Each square should have 3 to 4 circles on top of it.
 - Glue down all circles.

STEP 3

REFLECT

Students reflect on their concentric circles by examining and discussing their artwork.

Notice how the different colors look next to each other. Do some squares appear brighter?



STEP 1



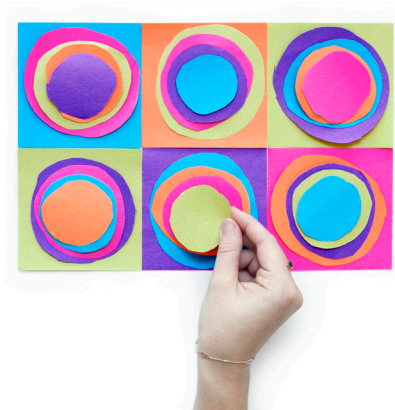
STEP 2



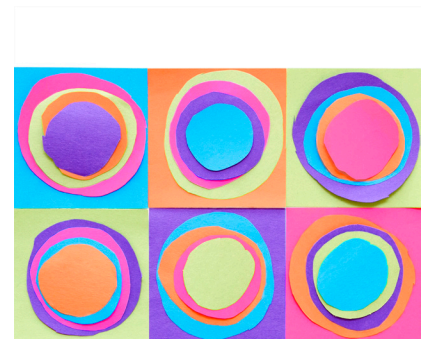
STEP 3



STEP 4



STEP 5



STEP 6

ADAPTATIONS

Use markers, colored pencils, crayons, oil pastels, or paint to create colored concentric circles.

FOR STUDENTS WHO FINISH EARLY

Students who finish early are instructed to create another concentric circle using a 4" x 4" square and cut out circles of different colors. Each extra concentric square students create will be added to a class mural. Construct mural on a whiteboard/ empty wall space by placing a piece of tape on the back of each and sticking to the mural space.

FURTHER STUDY

"I applied streak and blobs of colors onto the canvas with a palette knife and I made them sing with all the intensity I could..." –Kandinsky

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Wassily Kandinsky was born in Moscow, Russia in 1866. Kandinsky studied impressionist color under Anton Azbe and Franz von Stuck in the early 1900s. Later in his painting career he moved to a style of abstraction. This means that he began to paint pictures that did not look like real objects. In 1910 he painted his first abstract watercolor. He began painting with lots of color, lines, and shapes. In his color study, Squares with Concentric Circles, Kandinsky experimented with color by drawing circles of different colors in order to see how the colors interacted with each other. In 1912, he published a paper that explored the psychological effects of color and made comparisons between painting and music. He was considered the founder of abstract art.

IPAD INTEGRATION

Students use the app 'Overpaint' to view the way colors interact with each other. They are able to match colors and create new colors by overlapping squares. Allows students to view the way colors interact with each other.

RESOURCES

Short Bio Video on Kandinsky 1:56min

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-H42hoR0-s>

Concerning the Spiritual in Art – Kandinsky (published paper on color study)

<http://www.mariabuszek.com/kcai/Expressionism/Readings/KndnskySpirit.pdf>