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Visual Art Lesson Plans

Developed and Compiled by Erika Folnović & Jennifer Taylor

Mo Willems, author and illustrator of the “Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!” series, teaches you how to draw Piggie from his “Elephant & Piggie Book” series.

Watch the Video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SlTVraF_XDo&t=36s

Guided Learning:

- What other animals can you make starting with the first oval shape he makes for Piggie’s head? See how many animals you can make.
- Start with other shapes to create different animals: square, triangle, rectangle, circle, diamond.
- Next combine two shapes to see if you can make new animals. What happens when you combine a triangle and a circle? A square and two circles? Others?





Create animations using a simple flip book.

Download the Resource:

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/printables/the-peg-cat-floppy-hop-flipbook>

Guided Learning:

- What changes did the artist make to the drawings to make the flipbook animate?
- There were 24 different drawings that were combined to make a 1 sec flipbook.
- Use a blank paper or tracing paper and trace the drawings from the printable resource and seeing what changes the artist made to create the different movements.
- Second try coming up with a short, simple action sequence you can animate (ex: a cat licking their paw). Come up with the first and the last pose and try to fill in the drawing in between that will help it look like the movement is happening. Animators that create these inbetween drawings are called INBETWEENERS.
- You can download a blank template at:
https://www.cbc.ca/kidscbc2/content/the_feed/flipbook_Blank_Page.jpg





Learn more about Indigenous & Métis Beading from artist Jennine Krauchi.

Read More: <https://www.cbc.ca/kidscbc2/the-feed/do-you-know-what-beading-is>

Watch the Video: <https://mawa.ca/videos/view/two-needle-metis-beading-tutorial-with-jennine-krauchi>

Guided Learning:

- Can you think of places where you have seen beading?
- Look around your home. Do you have any examples of beadwork? What patterns or images are beaded? How long do you think it took the artist to bead that piece?
- If you don't have needles and thread at home to follow along with Jennine's tutorial, try creating "beaded" drawings or sculptures. Use beads/round objects and glue them onto a surface like paper or cardboard. Use markers and draw different coloured dots on paper to create a pattern. Copy some of the patterns of the beadwork you have at home. Think of elements of nature you want to bead. Jennine created a floral pattern. Can you think of flowers you would like to represent? What do those flowers mean to you?
- Create digital "beaded" designs through pixel art. You can use a free program like Piskel: <https://www.piskelapp.com/>. Click on "Create Sprite" in top right hand corner.



Make a still life contour drawing using objects in your home.

Watch the Tutorial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RpZ1TwGaugM>

Guided Learning:

- After watching the video, start gathering objects and items you want to try to draw from around your home.
- Remember a contour drawing is just the outline of the object. Don't worry about shading or adding shadows to your drawings!
- Create a composition or arrangement of your objects to try to draw.
- All you need is a pencil, eraser, and paper to make these drawings!
- Try to find different objects in your house and try out new and different arrangements.
- Look at more sketched examples by searching through the online collection of the MoMA (Museum of Modern Art).
 - See Tom Wesselmann's "Final study for 'Little Still Life No. 13'" (1963):
https://www.moma.org/collection/works/37850?classifications=any&date_begin=Pre-1850&date_end=2020&locale=en&page=1&q=still+life&with_images=1
 - William Scott's "Still Life with Strainer" (1956)
https://www.moma.org/collection/works/36533?classifications=any&date_begin=Pre-1850&date_end=2020&locale=en&page=2&q=still+life&with_images=1



Learn more about visual artist Jean-Michel Basquiat as you listen to a read-aloud of “Radiant Child” by Javaka Steptoe, then try making some artwork inspired by Basquiat’s style.

Watch the Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fi-ltvQONg>

Guided Learning:

- Learn more about Basquiat through a variety of resources.
- Read his full biography here: <https://kids.britannica.com/students/article/Jean-Michel-Basquiat/628054>
- Basquiat incorporated graffiti-like images and scrawled text in his works. Created a collage of art by mixing pieces of ripped paper, words, colours, and other media in a full picture of abstract words and images!
- Try this simplified drawing activity: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y33ZjeXFDfM>.
- (For older students) Watch this short TED-Ed animated video about Basquiat’s life and inspirations (note: the video references drug usage as he died from a drug overdose and shows some images of nude figures in an art gallery setting): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JX02QQXfb_o





Learn more about Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama and create your own dot inspired works.

Watch the Short Documentary from the [Tate](#) Modern (please note: video is subtitled and mentions male anatomy in reference to her work):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRZR3nsileA>

Read More About Kusama:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-yayoi-kusama>

Guided Learning:

- Create some Kusama inspired art! Kusama mainly uses dots/circles in her work. Choose a shape you would use in your art. Why did you choose that shape? Does it have a special meaning to you?
- Using materials you have at home create a painting or sculpture featuring dots or the shape of your choice. Cut out shapes from coloured paper and glue them down or draw/paint on the sculpture/surface. Maybe even try creating polka dot clothing!
- Check out some of Kusama's Infinity Rooms: <https://hirshhorn.si.edu/kusama/infinity-rooms/> (scroll down on the page for a small gallery).
- If you made your own infinity room, how would it be set up? Some of Kusama's infinity rooms are dark, and others are light. Why do you think she chooses different lighting? Would you make your room very bright or very dark? What would your theme be (besides polka dots!) or what objects would you have in your room?
- Find small handheld mirrors around your home and try to create your own mini infinity room diorama or create a larger infinity room with standing mirrors in your house.



Follow along with a set of drawing lessons with graphic designer, illustrator, and artist Lisa Congdon presented by Adobe’s online magazine “Create.”

Watch the Video Series (Suited for K-Gr. 3):

<https://create.adobe.com/2020/04/20/drawing-for-kids-with-lisa-congdon.html>

Guided Learning:

- Each video in the series is roughly 10 minutes and it is split into five parts.
- You only need paper and a writing tool like a pen, pencil, pencil crayon, or crayon to start. Later in the series, you will be colouring your drawings, so, pencil crayons, markers, or crayons are needed.
 - Lesson 1: What is a line? How to make shapes!
 - Lesson 2 & 3: Using shapes to draw actual things
 - Lesson 4: Color!
 - Lesson 5: What do I draw?
- Visit Lisa’s website to find free colouring pages and more information about her art and life: <https://campsite.bio/lisacongdon>





Today, we are going to learn how to create a fun board game, with a few ideas from Mo Willems! All you need is a piece of paper, dice, and something to use as a game piece.

Lunch Doodles with Mo Willems: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utmqbB7ekXM>

Guided Learning:

- Before creating Super Bounce, Mo uses Roman Numerals to write what day it is. Here is some information about Roman Numerals: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Roman-numeral>
 - Can you use the Roman Numeral guide to write today's date?
 - After Mo writes the date, he uses the numerals to create a fun fish picture. Use your imagination, and use the lines in the Roman Numerals to make your own fun picture. Ex. In Roman Numerals, 20 is written XX. Maybe one X is a sidewalk; Draw little people walking on the sidewalk, or maybe a yard is right next to the sidewalk.
- Super Bounce looked pretty fun! Can you make your own board game?
 - Making sure that your path is wide enough for game pieces, draw the path that your game pieces will take. Maybe your game board path has loops, or maybe it is one straight line. It's your game; you get to choose.
 - Pick where the start of the game is, and where the end is.
 - Make sure to mark where one step on your path ends. Make as many steps, or as few steps as you want.
 - Mo used fun trick squares, such as having to go back one space, or sing a song. Put trick squares on your game board. Not every space has to be a trick square, but it can be if you want it to! Think about your favourite activities when you come up with your trick squares. If you like to sing, maybe your trick squares could be about singing songs from movies. If you like to draw, a trick square could be "Draw Spiderman in 10 seconds." Maybe one space could send you all the way back to the beginning of your game!
 - Find some game pieces. You could use the marker that you used to draw your game, one of your toys, or make your own game pieces in any way you choose. Get creative!
 - Mo had an interesting rule about when 2 players were on the same space; do you remember what that was? The player who was already on that space goes back one space (even if it meant landing on a trick square!), and the player who just landed on it went ahead one space. Does your board game have any rules like that? Make sure to write down the rules!
 - You are ready to play your game! Play with a friend over the phone (Like Mo), a member of your household, or even a toy of yours.



Make an artistic fortune teller, and learn along the way! This craft is based on the famous abstract artist, Pablo Picasso.

For more information about Pablo Picasso, follow the link below:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-pablo-picasso>

Guided Learning:

- If you are unable to print off the guide from the website, no problem! There are directions on how to properly fold the paper to make a fortune teller. Use the prompts and pictures on the guide, or get creative!
- This project can be based on any artist that you like!
 - Maybe you really enjoy realistic artwork. Change your artist, as well as the prompts in the fortune teller to suit your artistic style! Check out this page about artist Roy Lichtenstein:
<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-roy-lichtenstein>
 - Switch up the pictures on the fortune teller, and change your prompts to something like: “Colour in a picture using only lines and dots” or, “make a Lichtenstein inspired self-portrait”
- The downloadable craft comes with some cool Picasso facts:
<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/make/cut-paste/make-picasso-fortune-teller>. If you are unable to print off the guide from the website, make a fortune teller following the directions on the website, and draw some pictures like the ones that they show!
- What is the most interesting thing that you learned about Pablo Picasso?





Have you always wanted to paint, but didn't have paint brushes? You can paint with all sorts of objects!

Watch the Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsaPzXddKSg>

Alternative method: Put small globs of paint onto a piece of paper that is inside of a container (so the marbles don't roll away!). Place your marbles inside the container, and begin to gently tilt the container. This method keeps the fingers a little cleaner.

Guided Learning:

- Here is a link that describes different types of painting:
<http://teresabernardart.com/know-your-art-painting-styles-7-most-popular/>
 - What kind of art would your marble painting be?
 - What colours did you use in your marble painting?
 - What made you decide to choose the colours that you used in your painting?
- Don't have marbles? No problem! Collect some rocks, acorns, or even crunch some paper into balls. Try this same technique with different object found in nature. Does it look different than the marbles?





You may have seen stained glass windows in movies, or in artwork. How is stained glass made, and how can you make your own stained glass art? No glass is used in today's craft!

How is stained glass made? Let's find out!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABBDgCNmPvk>

*Disclaimer: Do not try to make your own stained glass at home.

Guided Learning:

- Working with glass takes a lot of care and years of practice, but you can make your own stained glass style artwork at home. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TyX6h_LaQ5Q
- If you do not have tissue paper available, there are many other ways to create stained glass art.
 - Example 1:
 - Take a blank piece of paper and draw lines on it using a dark marker, pen, or pencil. You can draw a design in your picture, like a flower or a cat, but make sure to draw random lines that do not go right through your design. You can also just draw lines all over your paper.
 - Colour in the spaces between the lines.
 - You have created stained glass artwork
 - Example 2:
 - Help from a parent will be required.
 - Use 2 sheets of wax paper, and pieces from broken crayons.
 - Place the crayons in between the two pieces of wax paper.
 - Using a clothing iron, blow dryer, or even a flat iron for your hair, melt the crayon pieces between the wax paper.
 - Example 3:
 - Grab some chalk and head outside. Using a similar technique to example one, make stained glass art on your sidewalk.
 - Tip: Rather than draw lines and fill in the colour, draw irregular shapes and fill them in with chalk. Leave about one inch of space between your shapes. Let the sidewalk be your lines!





Andy Warhol created many famous images that we still see today. But who is Andy Warhol, and why do visual artists still talk about him?

Read the Article:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-andy-warhol>

Guided Learning:

- Try this Warhol inspired activity: <https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/make/paint-draw/make-pop-art-warhol> (Note: You do not necessarily need a printer. Put your art skills to the test and try to draw your own self portrait).
- Andy Warhol did not worry about shading in his artwork, so do not worry about shading your self-portrait. Rather, Warhol used different bright colours to give the illusion of shade. Instead of shading your self-portrait, look in the mirror, and notice the way that the light hits your face. Are there parts of your face that seem more shadowed than others? That can be where you use a different colour!
- When creating your self-portrait, what made you decide to use the colours that you chose? Did you choose complementary colours? For more information about the colour wheel, and what exactly a complementary colour is, visit this website: https://kids.kiddle.co/Complementary_color.
- You don't have to draw a can of soup for your pop art. Pick another object in your house; Try a mug. What would be on your mug? Would you have a cute saying, like "Treat Yourself," or maybe you would put a picture of a donut on your mug. Draw a pop art mug!
- Try making pop art with different types of art supplies. Make one drawing with crayon, and one with marker. Which do you prefer drawing with, and why?



How to draw Manga eyes

Regular Speed Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdjgsuqt2O0>

Sped Up Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJWjg57XtJ8>

Guided Learning:

- Follow which ever tutorial appeals to you, and try to draw a manga style eye.
 - In the second video, the creator said that they would give certain eyes to characters with different attitudes. Why do you think there are different styles of eyes for different personality traits?
 - Watch this clip from Pokémon: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dk7-nq-0rU0>
 - What did you notice about Ash's eyes? How about the eyes of the members of Team Rocket?
 - What kind of eyes would you give yourself if you were a manga character?
- Colour in the eyes that you drew.
 - What style of eye did you draw, and did it influence your choice of colour?
 - After watching the Pokémon clip, notice other details in the characters faces. Try adding some of those details in your drawing. Ex. Try drawing a nose, or a mouth.





People and animals live in homes of all shapes and sizes. Today's lesson will involve looking at the animal habitats around you, and taking note of the shapes of those homes. Take a look at artist Jenny Kendler's exhibit "Tell it to the Birds," which shows how some animals have changed how they live because of habitat loss.

Check Out the Exhibit:

<https://jennykender.com/section/402442-Tell-it-to-the-Birds.html>

**Note: Some of Jenny Kendler's work under the "Sculpture" and "Drawing" tab contain nudity.

Read this article to look at both natural and man-made structures that we can find animals living in: <https://steemit.com/steemiteducation/@anneke/natural-and-man-made-structures-and-shelters-for-animals-science-gr-3-4>

Guided Learning:

- Take a nature walk and ask your child the following questions:
 - Do you see or hear any birds, or other animals around you?
 - Where do these animals usually live?
 - Are those natural or man-made structures?
 - What do you think humans can do to stop animals, such as birds, from losing their homes?
 - Make your own bird nest following the step by step instructions:
<https://www.artbarblog.com/diy-bird-nests/>
 - Create a bird of your own to live in your new nest.
 - Draw a blueprint of what you want your bird to look like:
 - Draw two ovals connected to one another, and choose one oval to be the head, and one to be the body.
 - Begin adding both organic, and geometric shapes to create your birds face and body.
 - Once your blueprint is finished, you can make it out of yarn by following the tutorial: <https://www.instructables.com/id/DIY-Cute-Yarn-Bird/>
- **Note: Cardstock, craft wire and needle and thread can be replaced with construction paper, pipe cleaners and glue





Frida Kahlo overcame a variety of obstacles, and through her perseverance, she became an incredibly famous artist! Today, we will learn about Frida Kahlo, and see some of her paintings.

Who is Frida Kahlo?

School friendly video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfbLR15Bh74>

Video intended for older audiences: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9XYtPqWLB4>

Frida Kahlo's Artwork:

Self Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird: <https://www.fridakahlo.org/self-portrait-with-thorn-necklace-and-hummingbird.jsp>

Me and My Parrot: <https://www.fridakahlo.org/me-and-my-parrots.jsp>

The Frame: <https://www.fridakahlo.org/self-portrait-the-frame.jsp>

****Note:** Some other selections of Frida's paintings listed on the website contain nudity and sensitive subject matter.

Guided Learning:

- Take a look at the paintings listed above:
 - How did you feel while you were looking at the paintings?
 - What did you notice about the colour choices in Frida's paintings?
 - Frida used bright colours and patterns to reflect her Mexican heritage in The Frame. What sorts of colours would you put in a self-portrait that would be emblematic of your own heritage?
- Make a self-portrait!
 - Get a handheld mirror, paper, and pencil.
 - Study yourself closely in the mirror and look at all of your features.
 - Start with drawing a light outline of your face.
 - Slowly begin to add in other features in whatever order that you would prefer.
 - Frida loved animals and Mexico, and liked to include both things in her paintings. What would you include in your self-portrait?





Have you ever gone for a drive and noticed any little stones stacked together to look like a person? What are they, and what do they mean?

Do you know what an Inukshuk is?

<https://www.cbc.ca/kidscbc2/the-feed/do-you-know-what-an-inukshuk-is>

More in depth information about Inukshuks:

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/inuksuk-inukshuk>

Inukshuk history: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTGN8Fz97Y4>

Guided Learning:

- Inukshuks can be made for a lot of reasons
 - Using your own objects, create an Inukshuk path through your house
 - For added fun, create an Inukshuk treasure map! Make an Inukshuk path, but have some treasure at the end of your path.
- Some Inukshuk's are colourful creations.
 - With the help of a parent, gather some rocks from your yard that can stack up easily. If you cannot find rocks, look for other items you can find in nature, such as sticks, or even small pebbles.
 - Using paint, markers, or chalk, colour whatever object that you are using for your Inukshuk.
 - Stack them to create your Inukshuk!
 - If you feel like making more, go right ahead! You can make a treasure map in your yard just like the one that you did in your house.
- Here is a video of a reading of a book called *The Gift of the Inuksuk*, written by Michael Ulmer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCi-V6uKsM>

