Painting Murals

Materials: roll of green or blue bulletin-board paper • scissors • paintbrushes

1. Cut the bulletin-board paper to the desired length.

2. Working in groups, make sketches of a landscape composition and select one sketch for the mural. Copy the chosen sketch onto the bulletin-board paper, adjusting the composition to the scale of the mural paper.

3. Introduce painting techniques, using the lesson “Preparing to Paint!”

4. Select paintbrushes appropriate for the style and brushwork of the corresponding focus work of art. Select the colors for the murals.

5. Paint each landscape mural in the style of the focus work of art. Save the murals for the language arts lesson.
Sunday in the Park
Illustrated Art Lessons

Planning a Park: Torn-Paper Murals

Materials: roll of green or blue bulletin-board paper • scissors • construction paper • glue

1. Cut the bulletin-board paper to the desired length.

2. Using the drawings of ideal parks as a guide, tear pieces of construction paper into shapes and items that will go into the park.

3. Arrange the torn paper to form the park scene, then glue the shapes onto the background paper.

4. Use the construction paper to create representations of the class members, then glue them to the background paper.
Sunday in the Park
Illustrated Art Lessons

Estimating Distances: *People in Depth*

**Materials:** blank transparencies (as used with overhead projectors) • transparency markers • tape

1. Working in pairs, measure the distance outside the classroom window.

2. Draw lines at 5’, 10’, 20’, and 40’.

3. Tape a transparency to the window. Use a marker to indicate the horizon line, as seen through the window, on the transparency.

4. Have one partner go outside and stand on the 5’ line. The second partner should stay inside and draw the shape of the first partner on the transparency.

5. The partner outside should then move back to the 10’ line, the 20’ line, and the 40’ line, with the inside partner drawing the shape at each distance.

6. Partners should exchange positions and repeat the activity.
A Three-Dimensional World
Illustrated Art Lessons

Creating Sculpture: *Slip-and-Slot Method*

**Materials:** heavy paper • scissors • glue

*Note: Demonstrate this technique before students begin their sculptures.*

1. Cut two rectangles from heavy paper. Cut a slot in the bottom of one and a matching slot in the top of the other. Slide the two together. A bead of glue added at the seam secures the join where the two pieces meet.

2. Follow the same technique for circles, ovals, and triangles.

3. By combining these different shapes, students can create complex and varied sculptures.
A Three-Dimensional World
Illustrated Art Lessons

Creating Sculpture: Envelope Method

Materials: tagboard or heavy paper • object with circular bottom (can, pie plate) • scissors • glue

1. Fold a piece of 8” x 10” tagboard in half vertically, allowing about ½” to extend over the end. Fold and glue the extension to create an envelope.

2. Use the circular object to trace a half circle extending outward at each end of the envelope, then cut off the ends.

3. Place the circular object on the ends of the tagboard with the circle facing in. Score both sides of the tagboard along the arc of the circular form, and fold inward. This process creates convex envelopes that form sculpture modules.

4. Make short, wide modules, and long, narrow modules.

5. Experiment with different angles to create a variety of modules, then assemble them into sculpture.
Creating Animal Sculpture

Materials: large paper bags • scissors • pencils • glue • paint • water • paintbrushes • plastic egg carton • newspaper scraps • stapler • string

1. Choose an animal that lives in the local habitat. Cut the bottom off a large paper bag, then draw the shape of an animal on it.

2. Cut out the shape of the animal drawing. There should be two animal shapes.

3. Glue the two animal shapes together around the edges, leaving one end unglued. This opening will be used to stuff the animal with newspaper.

4. Draw in features of the animal, then paint it on both sides, emphasizing the animal’s characteristics.

5. Tear strips of newspaper, then stuff them into the animal shape through the open end. Staple the open end. Attach a string to each animal and hang the sculptures throughout the classroom.

6. If desired, the class can work together to paint a mural of the local habitat, following the directions in the lesson “Painting Murals.” Hang the stuffed sculptures in front of the habitat mural.
A Three-Dimensional World
Illustrated Art Lessons

**Studying Proportion: 10-Point Drawing System**

**Materials:** 12” x 18” manila or white paper • pencils • colored stick-on dots

1. Place colored stick-on dots on one person’s shoulders, elbows, hips, knees, and ankles (total of 10 dots). Teach the names for these parts of the body. Number the dots.

2. Ask the model to strike a pose. Start the drawing by first positioning the 10 dots, then connecting them using lines. The drawing will be a stick figure. Repeat the process with several different poses.

3. Using the lines as a skeleton or basis for the figure, draw in shapes for the arms, legs, head, and torso.

4. Add details to complete the drawing.
Machines around Us
Illustrated Art Lessons

Making Moving Art: Color Machine

Materials: 6" x 6" posterboard • primary-color markers • glue • 1" x 8" x 8" wooden boards • spools
• long screws [1" longer than the spools] • screwdriver • eye hooks • string • nuts

1. Find the center of the posterboard by drawing lines from corner to corner. Punch a small hole in the center. Draw a geometric design on the posterboard with the hole at the center. Fill in the design with any combination of two primary-color markers.

2. Align the hole in the posterboard with the hole in a spool, and glue the spool to the posterboard.

3. Push a screw through the hole in the posterboard and the spool, and screw it into the center of the wooden board. The spool should be between the posterboard and the wooden board.

4. Screw one eye hook to the top corner of the board, so that you can suspend the board from a nail in the wall. Screw two eye hooks to the front of the board, as indicated in the diagram.

5. Run a string through one of the lower eye hooks, around the spool twice, and down through the other eye hook.

6. Attach nuts as small weights to each end of the string. Make one weight heavier than the other. Hold the heaviest weight close to the eye hook, then release. The weight will pull the spool and spin the card. The primary colors should blend, making a new secondary color.
Collect different kinds of boxes in the weeks leading up to this project. Look for a variety of interesting shapes, such as egg cartons, oatmeal containers, cereal boxes, toothpaste cartons, shoe boxes, and book cartons.

Study the shapes of the collected boxes to determine which boxes correspond to different parts of the human figure. Work in groups to try different arrangements of the boxes to suggest the part-human, part-machine creature developed in the language arts lesson (see the Machines around Us Lesson Chart).

When a composition has been agreed upon, attach the boxes by gluing them together, and by cutting holes to insert paper towel rolls or toilet paper rolls.

Use small boxes for facial and other features, or cut construction paper into geometric shapes and apply. Paint the figure to make it look more machine-like and to unify the composition.
A World of Patterns
Illustrated Art Lessons

Printing Patterns

Materials: potatoes • nails • scissors • meat trays • paper towels • Createx paint or water-soluble ink in different colors • newspaper • 12" x 18" manila or white paper

1. Cut potatoes in two. Draw a geometric shape on the cut surface of the potato.

2. Use a nail to trace around the geometric shape several times, creating a groove in the potato.

3. Remove the unwanted areas around the geometric shape by scraping the potato with the blade of the scissors.

4. Place several sheets of paper towels in a meat tray. Add paint or ink to the paper towels to make a stamp pad for printing.

5. Press the cut part of the potato on the ink in the tray. Practice printing from the potato stamp and reinking the stamp until the process becomes familiar.

6. Using two or three stamps and colors, create a tessellated pattern of regularly repeating shapes and colors on the white or manila paper.
A World of Patterns
Illustrated Art Lessons

Writing and Quilting: Crayon-on-Fabric Quilt

Materials: pencils • crayons • 10” x 10” squares of manila paper • 10” x 10” squares of white cotton or muslin fabric • cardboard • pushpins • iron • needle • thread

1. Make preliminary sketches of personal symbols on manila paper. Use simplified shapes to create a strong design.

2. Feel the fabric squares. Discuss the difference between drawing on paper and on fabric. Tack the fabric to cardboard, using pushpins to keep the material taut. Draw designs on the fabric squares.

3. Select favorite colors, and color in the entire square.

4. As each square is completed, place the fabric between two layers of clean paper and press gently with a hot iron. This process causes the color to adhere to the fabric.

5. Arrange the fabric squares in a unified design with colors and shapes repeating to add rhythm to the quilt. Sew the fabric squares together.
A World of Patterns
Illustrated Art Lessons

Weaving Patterns

Materials: 12" x 18" construction paper • scissors • ruler • cardboard • yarn

1. Create a loom from construction paper. Draw a line horizontally 1" from the top of the paper. This is the “stop-line” to be used while cutting the warp. Fold the paper in half with the stop-line showing. Using a ruler, draw vertical lines about 1" apart, from the fold to the stop-line.

2. Cut along the vertical lines, starting at the fold and ending at the stop-line. Unfold the paper. This is the warp.

3. To make the weft, cut 1"-wide strips of colored construction paper. Use many different paper colors.

4. Demonstrate weaving by pushing one weft strip over and under the warp. Start the next weft under, then over the warp to make a checkerboard pattern.

5. Discuss ways to vary the weaving patterns. Experiment by varying the color of the weft strips and by changing the weaving pattern through the warp (for example, over two and under one).

6. Make several paper weavings that demonstrate different patterns.

The same technique can be used with yarn.

A. To make a loom for yarn, cut slots about ¼" apart in a piece of stiff cardboard. Wrap the yarn around the length of the board to make the warp.

B. Using other colors of yarn, push the weft over and under the warp, pulling the yarn to the end and starting back on the next row. To vary the color of the weft, tie pieces of differently colored yarn together and weave. Experiment with colors and weaving patterns as above.
A World of Patterns
Illustrated Art Lessons

Tessellation in Animals: Collage

Materials: 12” x 18” white art paper • construction paper • scissors • glue • markers or crayons

1. Draw the outline shape of animals on a piece of paper.
2. Tear shapes for the tessellated patterns on the animals from pieces of construction paper.
3. Arrange the torn shapes within the outline of the animal and glue them in place to make a tessellated design.
4. Using markers or crayons, draw the animal’s habitat.