

SCHOOL AGE

Week

20

Smart Activities



SMART CHOICE. SMARTER CHILD.®

Window View

Materials: paper, pencils, colored pencils/crayons/markers

Instructions:

One of Edward Hopper's most famous paintings is called *Nighthawks* which is a view of a New York diner late at night from outside the window. Like many of his works, *Nighthawks* has a "frozen in time" feeling, almost like a stilled movie scene. The large outline of the diner walls makes the people inside look small and rather lonely. Many of Hopper's paintings feature people staring out of the windows of cars, trains, and city buildings.

1. Think about a view you might see out your own window.
2. Will it tell a story?
3. Is it part of a mystery or exactly what you expect to see when looking through the glass?
4. Draw a window on your paper from either your house, a car, or bus.
5. Use your imagination and draw a scene within the window frame.
6. When you finish title your drawing, display, and enjoy the view!
7. Ask your family or a friend how the view makes them feel. Can they add a story to your picture?
8. Try drawing from different windows and different times of day.



Cinnamon Hearts

Materials: 1 cup applesauce, 1 1/2 cup cinnamon, 1/3 cup white glue, large cutting board, rolling pin, heart-shaped cookie cutters, plastic straw, ribbon, plastic gloves (optional)

Preparation: Work on a clean kitchen counter.

Instructions:

1. Mix the applesauce, cinnamon, and glue to form a ball.
2. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes.
3. Sprinkle cinnamon on the cutting board and roll dough ball out to a 1/4 inch thickness. (Don't make it too thin!)
4. Cut with heart shaped cookie cutters.
5. Using the straw, punch a hole at the top center of each heart.
6. If you are planning to make a garland, make two holes.
7. Let hearts dry for about two days. Color will change from a deep brown to a lighter shade.
8. Loop ribbon through the hole/holes – single ornament or garland.
9. Give away or enjoy the cinnamon fragrance yourself!



Favorite Things

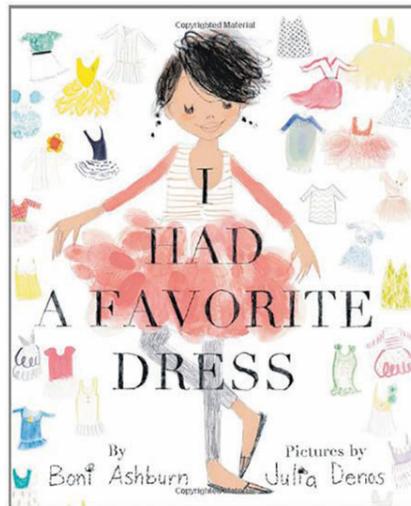
Materials: clothing that can be repurposed, sewing materials, fabric glue, any decorative materials to use to embellish your new creation

Preparation: Don't miss the joy of reading – just read something! This book is a great story for anyone who has ever had a favorite thing!

Instructions:

I Had a Favorite Dress by Boni Ashburn

This first-person story describes the evolution of a young girl's favorite dress as she outgrows it and transforms it with the help of her mom. Using tools like scissors, sewing needles, and a sewing machine, they explore the alteration process together, repurposing the material into progressively smaller creations.



What to Do:

1. Experiment with recycling old clothes by cutting them apart and reusing the fabric to sew pillows, pockets, or puppets or modify the clothing so it can be worn in a new way.
2. Use practice sewing boards (made of wood or cardboard with pre-punched holes) or flexible foam sheets (ex: thin shipping foam) with plastic needles and yarn to introduce the processes of weaving, sewing, and attachment.
3. If a sewing machine is handy, it will make the challenge that much more fun.
4. Practice your sewing and design skills to make new creations for yourself or a gift for a friend.
5. Try writing your own story of repurposing some of your old clothes or other old gadgets you may have in the house or garage.

Paper Helicopter

Materials: internet access, paper, ruler, paper clips, pencil, scissors, website:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pqhUGqznGk>

Preparation: Preview video. Have the video pre-loaded before beginning the activity.

Instructions:

Watch the video linked above. Follow the steps to making a paper helicopter:

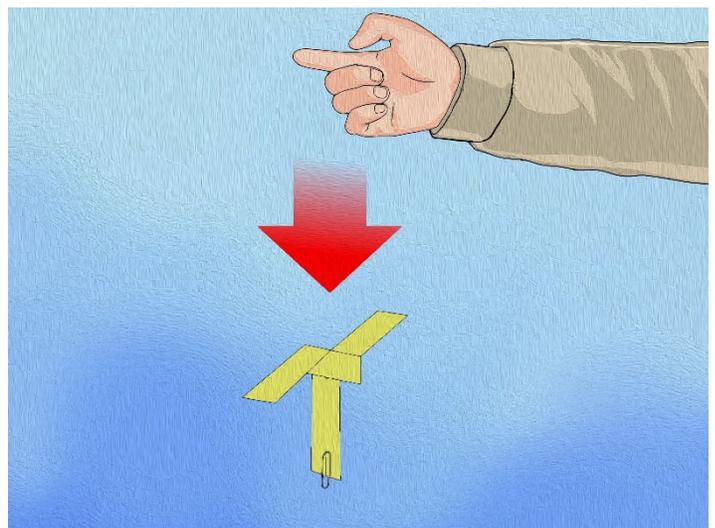
1. Cut your piece of paper to be 8cm x 20 cm.
2. On both long sides (20cm) of your paper, make marks on the 8cm line and the 11 cm line. Connect them by drawing two lines across the paper as shown in the video.
3. Then, mark the top line on the 4.5 cm mark as shown in the video. Draw a line from the mark to the top of the paper.
4. For the bottom line, make a mark on the 3 cm and the 6 cm mark. Draw lines from each mark to the bottom of the paper.
5. Cut the single line and stop once you reach the horizontal line. Then, cut the edges and fold the paper according to the video.
6. Place the paperclip on the bottom of the paper helicopter.

Now that your Helicopter is complete, test is out! Toss it up in the air and watch it spiral as it comes down. This activity is making a propeller. Tilting the blades will enable the propeller to produce lift by creating faster moving air on the top, which has less pressure than on the bottom. If spun right, the paper helicopter will fly into the air! If dropped from a high point, it will circle gently to the ground. How well does your helicopter fly?

Extensions:

You can make a bigger version of the paper helicopter that is also shown in the video.

Design and color your paper helicopter with crayons or markers!



<https://www.wikihow.com/Create-a-Paper-Helicopter>

Artist Inspiration: Sister Rosetta Tharpe

Materials: internet access, website:

<https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/this-little-light-of-mine-performed-by-sister-rosetta-tharpe-in-1960>

Preparation: *An adult will supervise use of the internet. Preview video.

Instructions:

Sister Rosetta Tharpe was an African American singer, songwriter, and guitarist. She was a popular performer in the 1920's and 30's in a style that influenced the beginnings of modern rock and roll of the 1950's. Her biography information states that she started playing guitar at age four and was performing publicly with her mother by age six.

Watch the video of her performance at the Festival de Jazz d'Antibes Juan-les-Pins in Paris, France and consider the following:

How do you feel about this style of music? How is it similar to the music you typically listen to? How is it different?

The song in the video is a popular gospel song – how do the lyrics make you feel? Have you ever heard a different version of this song? Which version do you like better? Can you explain why? Can you describe the way she performs, her gestures, and her style?

Do you know anything about history and why it may be important that this person was a successful female African American singer during her time?



DIY Guitar

Materials: cardboard box, extra cardboard, rubber bands, glue/tape, round-head paper fasteners, scissors, pencil

Preparation: An adult will help with cutting the box.

Instructions:

1. Cut a hole in the center of the box for a sound hole.
2. Make a bridge from the extra cardboard and glue to one end of the box.
3. Use tape to hold it in place while the glue dries.
4. Fasten the rubber bands over the sound hole and secure at each end with brads.
5. Tune the sound of the bands by adjusting the tightness.

If you could learn any song on the guitar, what would it be?

See project images here:

<https://makezine.com/2015/04/10/kid-craft-cardboard-guitar/>

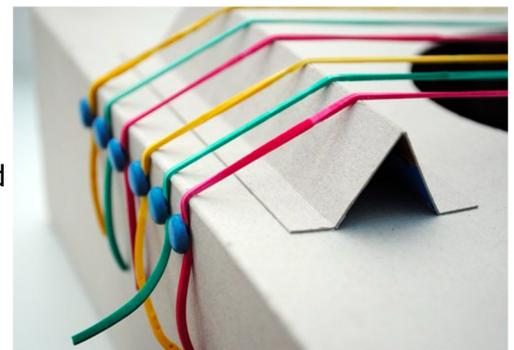
Use this free online guitar tuner to match the sound your guitar makes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvF2V3X1FCk>

Alternative easy DIY guitar:

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-and-experiments/create-a-cardboard-guitar>

Deluxe DIY guitar: <https://www.instructables.com/id/Cardboard-Guitar-1/>



The Sound of Colors

Materials: internet access, websites included with activity

Preparation: An adult will help with the internet. Preview websites and videos.

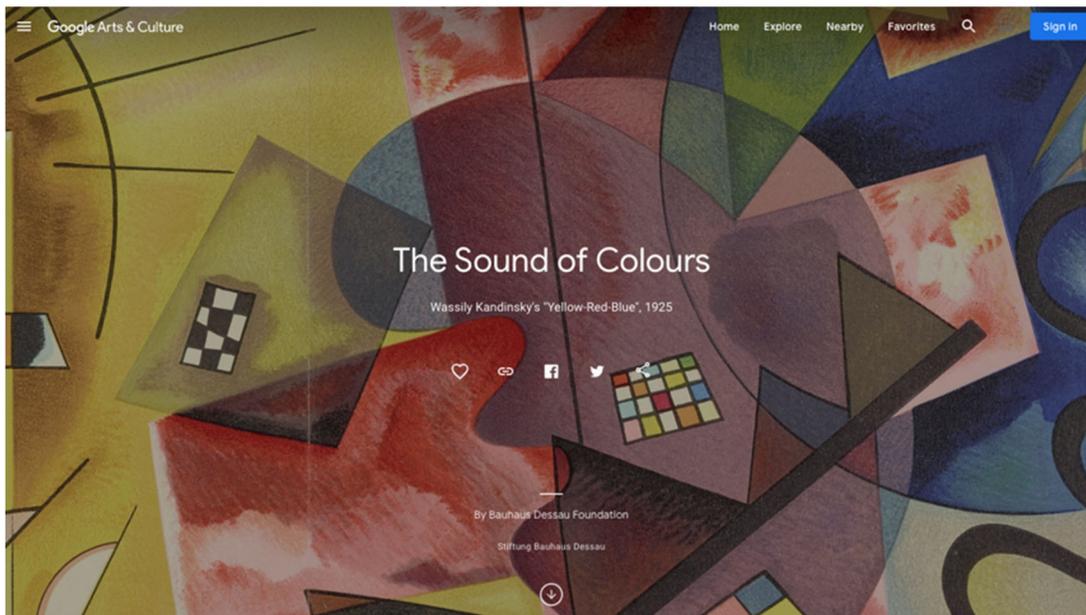
Instructions:

Brief introduction to the painting styles of Kandinsky: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cxll0JJOrm0>

Think about the following: Can you smell color? Can you taste sound? The artist Wassily Kandinsky could. It is a condition called synesthesia. This happens when a person's brain can process more than one sense (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch) at once. For example, Kandinsky could hear music and then see colors as a result of the sounds. This eventually influenced the type of art he created. What words can you use to describe how Kandinsky's art style changed based on the images video above?

Look at the images on this link:

<https://artsandculture.google.com/story/the-sound-of-colours/0ALymHuhPl1jLg>



Describe the images you see using words related to color, shape, and line. Now, play the song Sidewinder by Lee Morgan in the link below while looking at the Kandinsky images:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJi03NqXfk8&list=PL8F6B0753B2CCA128&index=5>

Do you have any physical changes in your body as you are looking at the art with the music? Do you notice anything about your feelings, thoughts, or movements? Can you explain why this may or may not be? Do you notice any other senses?

More information about Kandinsky: <https://kids.kiddle.co/Kandinsky>

Top 100 Classic Jazz Playlist : <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8F6B0753B2CCA128>

Image Credit: Bauhaus Dessau Foundation on Google Arts and Culture:

<https://artsandculture.google.com/story/the-sound-of-colours/0ALymHuhPl1jLg>

Sound Creature Challenge

Materials: art materials, internet access, website:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/make/art-technology/draw-sound-creature>

Preparation: An adult will help with the internet. Preview website.

Instructions:

This activity is a way of using sound to inspire creativity. You will listen to some sounds and create a creature who represents the sounds.

What will your creature look like? Will it be based on fantasy, reality, or a combination of both? What type of dwelling does it live in? Does it have any superpowers?

Read the directions all the way through before beginning.

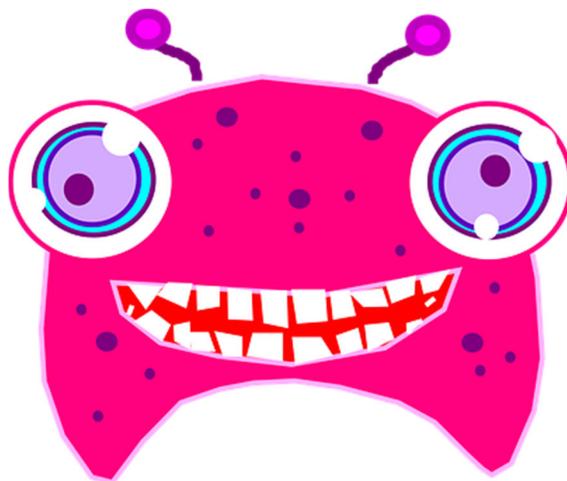
- Pick a sound from the list on the website and press play.
- Close your eyes and listen to the sound. Let the images form in your mind.
- Allow yourself to feel the sound. Let the image present itself to you. Try to avoid identifying the sound. Don't overthink it because that is not what this exercise is about.
- Repeat the steps with each sound as you wish.
- When you are finished, you will have an amazing sound creature! Can you make a plan to have your friends create one too? Maybe you can share them or make a collage?

Activity modified from the Tate Museum:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/make/art-technology/draw-sound-creature>

Extension: Go to Free Sound Effects: <https://www.freesoundeffects.com/> and make up a guessing game of sounds with another person.

More about Sound Art: <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/s/sound-art>



Science: Making Butter

Materials: heavy whipping cream, large mason jar

Preparation: Gather materials.

Instructions:

1. Fill your mason jar about halfway with cream.
2. Take turns shaking the jar with your family as you begin to see it change and the fat begins to clump. It will take a few minutes for the fat in the heavy whipping cream to start to clump together.
3. It will begin to look like whip cream or ice cream at this stage.
4. Observe how the cream changes as you continue to shake it. Think about what it looks like, what the texture is, and if the color changes.
5. Continue shaking it. It should take about ten minutes of shaking. You can even try rolling it back and forth to each other on the floor when your arms get tired.
6. After about 10 minutes, you will have butter!

Make some toast and try out your butter!



Fizzy Art

Materials: baking soda, a few plastic cups, cardstock or other thick paper, liquid watercolors or food coloring, paintbrushes, vinegar,

Preparation: *Children will need help from an adult for this activity.

Instructions:

1. To get started, mix a spoonful of baking soda with food coloring and water. Mix one color in each cup.
2. Place a sheet of thick paper or cardstock on a tray or covered surface to help to make an easy clean up!
3. Now, use your paints to mix colors, paint different shapes, and use a variety of brush strokes to fill the paper with the baking soda paint.
4. Once your painting is complete, use a pipette or similar tool to drip vinegar onto your paper!
5. Observe what happens next!
 - Does your colors and paints begin to fizzle and bubble?
 - What do you see?
 - What do you hear?

The reaction that you see is a chemical reaction between the baking soda and vinegar! Watch as they interact with each other and your painting bubbles and fizzes with color!

