Facts to Know

**Suggested group size:** three to four children per adult volunteer

**Time frame:** group meeting 30 to 60 minutes

**Recommended ages:** 5- to 7-year-olds (kindergarten through second grade)

**Materials:**
- Crayons
- Pencils
- Markers (one box/member)
- Permanent markers
- White, black and gold construction paper
- Precut small squares and rectangles in black and white construction paper
- Glue
- Foamcore, poster or mat board
- Rubber cement
- Kandinsky and Klimt example art works

Background Knowledge

Drawing is an ancient form of visual expression. A visual artist uses various drawing instruments to create an image on a two-dimensional (flat) surface. We do not know when art, or drawing, was established. Humans have produced sketches or drawings since ancient times. Some of the oldest sketches and drawings in the world are found in the caves of Spain and France. The oldest of these is more than 40,000 years old.

Drawing media used in this lesson may include pencil, ink or crayon. Members will experiment with shape, pattern and process to create original works of art.

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NDSU Extension Service
Learning Activities

Do: Getting Started
Pre-drawing Exercise (10 minutes)

Note: Adult helpers should do this activity also.

1. Ask members to fold a piece of paper into quarters. Members will draw four images, one in each quarter. For this activity, members will draw instinctively. Encourage members to draw the first image or picture that came to mind. This exercise has no right or wrong way.

2. In one quarter, ask members to draw circles using their favorite color marker. Members can draw large circles, small circles, fill them in or leave them empty.

3. In a second quarter, ask members to draw a pattern using squares in any color they’d like. Fill the entire quarter with the square pattern.

4. In a third quarter, ask members to draw a building.

5. In the last quarter, ask members to draw a tree.

6. Ask members to compare their drawings with those of an adult helper. How are theirs the same or different? This activity is an excellent way to show that most people draw the symbols and images they learned in kindergarten. And likely no one has taught them any differently since then.

Do: Digging Deeper
Creating a Kandinsky (20 minutes)

1. For this activity, members should draw what they hear you say.

2. Ask members to listen carefully to your directions.

3. Encourage members not to look at one-another's work while doing this exercise.

4. Use the following directions:
   a. Draw five straight lines anywhere on your paper.
   b. Draw seven circles anywhere on your paper.
   c. Draw one curved line that starts at one edge of your paper and ends up somewhere in the middle of your paper.
   d. Color in four of the circles any color you like.
   e. Draw three triangles anywhere on your paper.
   f. Draw one more curved line anywhere on your paper.
   g. Color in two of the triangles any color you like.
   h. Fill in three areas of your paper however you like (completely colored in, lines, squiggles, etc.)

5. Once the drawings are complete, members should sign their work in the lower right corner.

6. Ask members to compare one another's creations. Do the drawings look the same? Different? How are they similar? How are they different? Why?

Artist Biography: Wassily Kandinsky

Wassily Kandinsky was a Russian artist (born in 1866, died in 1944) credited with creating the first purely abstract works of art. Kandinsky’s early work was impressionistic in nature. During the course of his life, his artwork evolved from fluid and organic to geometric and finally pictographic. Kandinsky, a talented musician, once said, “Color is the keyboard, the eyes are the harmonies, the soul is the piano with many strings. The artist is the hand that plays, touching one key or another to cause vibrations in the soul.” His most well-known work is “Composition IV.”

The following Wassily Kandinsky art works are suitable for young members: Composition IV, Unbroken Line, Kleine Freuden, Arch and Point.
Do: Looking Within
Building a Klimt (30 minutes)

For this activity, members will create a drawing based on the artwork of Gustav Klimt. Share the short artist's biography and sample works with members before they begin their artwork.

1. Each member will build his or her drawing on a 9- by 12-inch sheet of gold construction paper.
2. For this activity, members should draw what they hear you say.
3. Use the following directions:
   a. Glue rows of black and white construction paper squares and rectangles on the side of your paper. Glue them in a straight line and occasionally on top of one another.
   b. Draw red and purple flowers with green stems at the bottom.
   c. Above these, draw brown spiral lines.
   d. Then draw circles (big ones in brown, small ones in purple and red).
   e. Then draw lines of green triangles. Note: By now you will have questions as to where to put things. If you like, you can draw a sample.
   f. Ask members to outline in black their favorite triangles.
   g. Connect the triangles with brown lines.
   h. Draw a colored circle in the center of their best-drawn circles and black dots in their favorite small circles.
   i. Fill in blank areas with tiny purple stars.
   j. Next, draw lines of three tiny black circles, then more spirals.
   k. And finally draw a few open rectangles and squares inside the rows of black and white construction paper. The trick is to take it slowly and build, trying to fill in the gold paper.
4. Once the drawings are complete, members should sign their work in the lower right corner.
5. Ask members to compare their final products with Gustav Klimt's work. Discuss the process of building a complicated work all made with simple shapes.

(Artist Biography by KinderArt: Gustav Klimt)

Gustav Klimt was an Austrian painter (born in 1862, died in 1918) and the founder of the school of painting known as the Vienna Sezession. Klimt's early work was rather realistic in nature. Many of the paintings he did prior to 1898 were large murals commissioned by theaters. Later in his life, Klimt began to paint in a much more innovative and imaginative way until eventually his creations were very decorative and quite symbolic, meaning that many of the images in his work had hidden meaning. His most well-known work is "The Kiss."

The following Gustav Klimt art works are suitable for young members: The Kiss, Accomplishment, L'Albero Della Vita, The Tree of Life.
Reflect/Apply

Reflect: Bringing Closure (10 minutes)

1. Create an art gallery. Mount one print impression from each member on a square piece of Foamcore, poster or mat board using rubber cement. Ask each member to sign his or her original artwork in the lower right corner with a permanent marker. Hang finished print impressions along a wall and take a walking tour of the gallery as a group.

2. Ask each member to share the inspiration for his or her piece on display.

Apply: Going Beyond

1. Practice using pattern and process to create works of art. Now that members have created a couple of original works of art, repeat the pre-drawing exercise from this lesson. What differences do they notice between their first drawings and their most recent drawings?

2. Create name monsters. Fold a piece of paper in half the long way. Have an adult helper write a member’s first name in cursive along the fold in pencil. Refold the paper along the crease again and rub with fingers to transfer the pencil to the other side. To darken, trace over the mirror image of the name. Color in the gaps and spaces created. What kind of name monster can be created?

3. Design a sketchbook. Draw a repetitive pattern of simple shapes using metallic markers on the cover of a sketchbook or notebook with blank paper. Don’t forget to have members sign their name on the cover art.

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Project Coordinator and Editor: Monique Snelgrove, Extension Agent, Center for 4-H Youth Development

Curriculum Consultant and Editor: Dean Aakre, 4-H Youth Development Specialist, Center for 4-H Youth Development

Author: Monique Snelgrove

Resources