

Visual Arts: Kindergarten

SEE PAGE 3, "The Arts in the Curriculum."

TEACHERS: In schools, lessons on the visual arts should illustrate important elements of making and appreciating art, and emphasize important artists, works of art, and artistic concepts. When appropriate, topics in the visual arts may be linked to topics in other disciplines. While the following guidelines specify a variety of artworks in different media and from various cultures, they are not intended to be comprehensive. Teachers are encouraged to build upon the core content and expose children to a wide range of art and artists.

I. Elements of Art

TEACHERS: The generally recognized elements of art include line, shape, form, space, light, texture, and color. In kindergarten, introduce children to line and color. Engage students in recognizing and using different kinds of lines and colors, and point out lines and colors in nature. (You may also wish to observe shapes in art and nature—see Math: Geometry.)

A. COLOR

- Observe how colors can create different feelings and how certain colors can seem "warm" (red, orange, yellow) or "cool" (blue, green, purple)
- Observe the use of color in
 - Pieter Bruegel, *The Hunters in the Snow*
 - Helen Frankenthaler, *Blue Atmosphere*
 - Paul Gauguin, *Tahitian Landscape*
 - Pablo Picasso, *Le Gourmet*

B. LINE

- Identify and use different lines: straight, zigzag, curved, wavy, thick, thin
- Observe different kinds of lines in
 - Katsushika Hokusai, *Tuning the Samisen*
 - Henri Matisse, *The Purple Robe*
 - Joan Miró, *People and Dog in the Sun*

II. Sculpture

- Recognize and discuss the following as sculptures:
 - Northwest American Indian totem pole
 - Statue of Liberty
- Mobiles: Alexander Calder's *Lobster Trap and Fish Tail*

III. Looking at and Talking about Works of Art

TEACHERS: After children have been introduced to some elements of art and a range of artworks and artists, engage them in looking at pictures and talking about them. Ask the children about their first impressions—what they notice first, and what the picture makes them think of or feel. Go on to discuss the lines and colors, details not obvious at first, why they think the artist chose to depict things in a certain way, etc.

- Observe and talk about
 - Pieter Bruegel, *Children's Games*
 - Mary Cassatt, *The Bath*
 - Winslow Homer, *Snap the Whip*
 - Diego Rivera, *Mother's Helper*
 - Henry O. Tanner, *The Banjo Lesson*

See also American History K, Native Americans, re totem pole.