

Language:
Jasper Johns
Alphabet Painting



Language Arts & Visual Art

Grade
1

Language Common Core Standard(s) Grade 1

L.1.a Print all upper and lower case letters

Visual Arts (MD) Standard(s) Grade 1

3.1.c Create artworks that explore the uses of color, line, shape, texture, form, and selected principles of design, such as pattern and repetition, to express ideas, thoughts, and feelings.



CONNECTED OBJECTIVES

Students will create an alphabet painting making all upper or lower case letters, based on the artwork of Jasper Johns, and incorporating examples of tints, shades and complimentary colors

MATERIALS & RESOURCES

- Jasper Johns painting images
- Large poster board or canvas
- Tempura paint or acrylic (if available)
- Paint brushes, paper plates (to hold and mix paint)

KEY CONTENT VOCABULARY

- Upper case letters
- Lower case letters

KEY ARTS VOCABULARY

- Tints
- Shades
- Complimentary colors

ASSESSMENT

- Can students create letters correctly?
- Can students mix paint colors to show tints and shades?
- Did students use complimentary colors?



L E S S O N S T E P S

- Explore Jasper Johns paintings and discuss using the “I See, I Think, I Wonder” Artful Thinking routine.
- Guide students to pay close attention to the colors used and discuss that tints are made by mixing a color with white to make a lighter version (e.g. blue to light blue) and shade is when you mix a color with black to make it darker. Ask students to find tints and shades within the paintings.
- Also guide students to find complimentary colors, or colors that when placed next to each other create the strongest contrast (e.g. black and white, red and green, blue and orange, etc.).
- Explain that students will be making a painting similar to Jasper Johns’ alphabet painting to practice our letter writing.
- Prior to the lesson draw boxes onto the poster board so that students can space their letters properly. (Students can do all the letters or can be assigned a few letters to be put together with their classmates.)
 1. Have students tint and shade different colors and start painting the letters onto the poster board.
 2. Then have students paint complimentary colors around the letters. (This can be done on another day to allow the letters to dry.)
 3. Discuss completed paintings to share out what students discovered when mixing colors, choosing complimentary colors and making their letters.

EXTENSIONS & OPTIONS

- Students can be assigned one letter or a few letters and not all.
- This project can be converted to math by printing and painting numbers.

SOURCES & RESOURCES

Artful Thinking Routines @ <http://www.pzartfulthinking.org>

Adapted from:
<http://fiftyreds.wordpress.com/2012/11/18/word-paintings-inspired-by-jasper-johns/>

Jasper Johns, Numbers in Color, 1958-1959

G E T S M A R T T H R O U G H T H E A R T S

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S u p p o r t i n g D o c u m e n t s

