

STEAM Lesson #2: Multiple Interpretations of Abstract Designs

STEAM Lesson #2 Overview

Grade level: K through 3rd grade

Main Idea: Multiple Solutions, Abstract Art,

Subject Areas: Mathematics, Visual Arts

Learning Objectives: Students will be given instructions to follow and will use their own interpretation to create an abstract design. Students will appreciate the multiple correct solutions and will observe other students' interpretations of the same idea.

Duration: 20 Minutes

Supplies:

- Crayons or colored pencils
- ½ sheets of white copier paper (8 ½ X 5 ½)
- Follow up challenge instructions

Set Up:

1. Print out one copy of the Activity Instructions for the teacher
2. Each child gets a sheet of paper plus crayons or colored pencils.
3. Allow enough space for students to spread out and not view other students' work. A large circle works best.

Attachments:

- Lesson #2 Overview
- Teacher Instructions

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Teacher Instructions:

1. Ask the children to listen carefully and follow each drawing instruction one at a time
2. Instruct them to not look at anyone else's paper, **this is very important.**
3. They will notice that the instructions are simple and vague; tell them this is intentional.
4. The teacher reads the instructions one at a time and allows the students a minute for each instruction before moving onto the next.

Activity Instructions to read to the entire group of students:

- Draw a straight thick blue line from one side or edge of the paper to another side
- Draw a solid red circle somewhere on the paper
- Draw an orange rectangle in the center of the paper
- Draw a green curved line on one side of the paper
- Draw 3 zig-zag lines somewhere else on the paper
- Draw a large black triangle and color it in with a different color
- Color in one white section of your drawing in red

Teacher Follow up questions:

When they are finished follow up with these comments/questions:

- Today we each drew an abstract drawing using just the elements of art, line shape and color.
- Did this get more difficult as it went along?
- Was it difficult to make a decision as to where to put things?
- These are all decisions that artists need to make when designing a work of art. Sometimes an artist does things quickly and spontaneous or sometimes very slowly, thinking about each step one at a time.

Ask the students to arrange all of the works together onto the large board to form one large abstract artwork. Point out examples of how they are similar and different.