YOUR COLORFUL IMAGINATION: COLORFUL CREATURES

We are going to create characters from our imagination in an art game and use color to bring them to life. This is a fun activity to do on your own or with a friend!

Instructional videos available at lanearts.org/online-learning

WHAT YOU’LL NEED

- Pencil, pen, or marker
- Paper
- Something to color with: markers, colored pencils, watercolor and brushes. Anything will do!

STEP 1: DRAWING WARM-UP

We will begin by practicing free drawing on paper. Draw all kind of lines to fill your paper and get warmed up.

- Curves
- Zig-zags
- Slow lines
- Fast lines
- Spirals
- Overlapping lines that run into each other
- Dots
- Dashes
- Circles

STEP 2: BLIND DRAWINGS

Get a fresh page to draw on. To begin our characters, we will practice blind drawing – drawing with our eyes closed!

- Put your pencil to paper, close your eyes, and draw lines and doodles on paper for a count of 5 seconds. Then, open your eyes and discover what you’ve drawn!
- Do you see anything that could become a creature in the drawing? Does any part make you think this is where eyes or tail or legs could go?
- Create characters/faces/monsters out of the doodled discoveries. Make sure to put eyes and mouths! Do you want to add wings, tails, feathers, scales?
- See what you can come up with and then add smaller details like fur.

STEP 3: COLOR

Now to add color to our creature drawings, you can use any coloring tool, including spices, coffee or berries to make paint! Did you know that you can use a brush to add water to marker drawings and make a watercolor ink? Now is the time to color in your creatures. Have fun coming up with their personalities, names and even add a background!

CONTENT CREATED BY JESSILYN BRINKERHOFF
YOUR COLORFUL IMAGINATION: A MAGICAL GARDEN

We are going to draw our own imaginative garden, then add color to bring it to life! We will imagine our very own special place, draw and paint, then complete the scene by drawing details. We are also going to learn about blending watercolors.

Instructional videos available at lanearts.org/online-learning

WHAT YOU’LL NEED

- Pencil, pen, or marker
- Paper
- Something to color with: watercolor and brushes. You can always make color from spices/foods/makeup and a brush. You can also use markers, colored pencils or crayons if you don’t have paint for this lesson.

STEP 1: WATERCOLOR EXPERIMENTS

Before starting our garden, let’s experiment on a separate sheet of paper!

- With watercolor, brush and paper, create two circles of different colors that connect and run into each other.
- Next, see what happens when you add drops of clear water onto the wet pools of color. Make sure the paint is still fresh and wet.
- Then, try adding salt to other wet circles and let them dry. When they are dry you may discover magical crystal formations in the color!
- Finally, once dry, use pen/pencil/marker to create something out of these fun colorful shapes. Add details to your drawings! Some ideas are to add leaves, petals, eyes, or legs. There is no limit!

STEP 2: GARDEN

Now, we’re ready to create our very own garden!

- First, take time to imagine! What would you like in your very own garden? What foods and flowers would live there? What bugs and creatures would live there?
- Begin by painting or drawing colorful shapes on paper. Take your time, this is your world to create and anything goes!
- Add trees, fruits, veggies or anything you would like to grow in your garden in your very own special place.
- Remember to color everything in. If you are using watercolor, add salt to those wet paint areas on your page for colorful crystal patterns!
- Once dry (if using watercolor), use your pen/pencil/marker to outline everything and add details to your foods, plants, animals, bicycle, wagon, bugs, etc.
- Now that you have drawn your garden, try a new drawing! You could try to draw the view from your window, outer space or special imaginative places to share with your friends and family!
- See what you can come up with and then add smaller details like fur.

CONTENT CREATED BY JESSILYN BRINKERHOFF
YOUR COLORFUL IMAGINATION: NEIGHBORHOOD NATURE COLLAGE

We are going to create a collage with items we find around us! These can be things from outside or any objects of your choice. We’ll create a pattern on the page with the items, trace them, and then add color and details. Instructional videos available at lanearts.org/online-learning

WHAT YOU’LL NEED

- Pencil, pen, or marker
- Paper
- Something to color with: watercolor and brushes. You can always make color from spices/foods/makeup and a brush. You can also use markers, colored pencils or crayons if you don’t have paint for this lesson.
- At least 10 items. Go on a hunt to find these. You could use natural things from your neighborhood like flowers, leaves, sticks, or rocks. We will be tracing these items, so make sure they’re not too small or too large. Only take things you find on the ground or have permission to take!

STEP 1: DESIGN

- Take time to look through your items. Notice the beautiful details and see if you can identify names of items from nature in your collection.
- Arrange your items on a piece of paper into a design that you like. This could be a:
  - symmetrical arrangement: where the items match on either side
  - or an asymmetrical layout: where the items are randomly placed on your page.
  - You could also make a circle or rows out of your items, it’s up to you!
- Once you like your arrangement, slowly trace the outline of each of your items with a dark pencil, pen, or dark marker.
- Next, remove all of the items from the paper and look at your collage so far! Add details inside your outlined shapes, such as veins inside of leaves, holes in rocks, or the lines on flower petals.

STEP 2: COLOR

Now is time to color with any tool you’d like!

- If you are using watercolor, try filling in your shape with clear water first, then drop drips of color into the wet shape and notice how the color grows.
- You can also add salt to your wet watercolor painting for crystal textures.
- Color in all of your shapes in whatever colors you prefer!
- Finally, once all of your shapes are colored in, you can finish by adding lines and details on top.

Once you’re all done, you can begin a new project! Start over with the same objects on a new piece of paper with a new symmetrical or asymmetrical arrangement. This time try to leave the outlines empty and only color in the background to show off the beautiful shapes.

CONTENT CREATED BY JESSILYN BRINKERHOFF
YOUR COLORFUL IMAGINATION: UNDERWATER ADVENTURES IN SHADING

We are going to learn about pencil shading and draw an underwater scene. We will explore blending and shading from light to dark to make shapes look three-dimensional.

Instructional videos available at lanearts.org/online-learning

WHAT YOU’LL NEED
- Pencil
- Paper
- Eraser

STEP 1: SHADING SCALE
First, to practice shading, we will create a scale where we’re start super light on the left end and gradually increase the pressure we use on the paper to shade super dark on the right end.

- Draw a rectangle and divide it into 5 even sections with 4 vertical lines.
- You now should have 5 boxes. Number them 1-5 from left to right.
- Leave box #1 on the very left empty. That will be the lightest shade. In box #2, shade the box with very light pressure to create a light grey tone. Make sure all pencil strokes are going the same direction.
- Go to box #3 and shade using more pressure on the pencil than in box #2.
- Continue in each box until you finish box #5, making sure to increase pressure as you go.

STEP 2: SHADING A BALL
Now, we’ll shade in a circle to make it look like a three dimensional sphere or ball. The direction where the light is coming from will be lightest spot on the ball.

- Draw a circle. Draw a sun in the upper left to represent the sunlight shining on the ball.
- Practice your very light pressure pencil strokes towards the top of the ball – these will look similar to the strokes you drew in box #2 on your shading scale. Increase pressure as you reach the bottom of the ball.
- Use the eraser to remove some pencil from the top of the ball and create a highlight!
- Use your finger to blend.
- Add a shadow below the ball on the bottom right, furthest away from the sunlight.

STEP 3: DRAWING AND SHADING A SALMON
We’ll start a drawing of a salmon on a new piece of paper.

- First, put a sun at the top center of the page to show the sunlight is shining down on your fish.
- Draw a salmon outline to begin your ocean scene. It will help a lot to look at a picture for reference. Add an eye, fins, gills, etc. Now, we shade by using our dark to light technique we’ve practiced.
- Shade the salmon with light strokes on the top of its back and more pressure underneath its belly. Make sure your shading lines are all going the same horizontal directions.
- Add details like scales and lines on the fins to finish. Use your finger to blend the lines and an eraser to create highlights on the top of its back.
- Now we can create a scene! Add more fish to your ocean. Add rocks, starfish, kelp, etc.

What else do you want to add to your ocean? Remember to make sure everything is shaded on the same side so that the tops of your characters are light near the sun and shaded dark when they are furthest away from the sun.

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