

Line

Year 1

This unit introduces children to the element of line. It presents the idea that lines are like basic tools for artists and explores Klee's influential statements describing lines. The lessons explore vocabulary for describing different kinds of lines and children practise using these to create pictures, working directly from instructions and using their imagination. They investigate the work of Rembrandt, Miro, Klee and Pwerle which show how lines can be used to show different things, ranging from simple shapes and objects to representing dreams and patterns. They look at how artists can use different materials to make lines, not only using pencils, pens and paint but using 3D media, such as wire and string. They then produce their own work using mixed media. Looking at large paintings by Miro affords the opportunity to address the idea of scale and the children work as a group to produce a large piece of work altogether.

Lesson Sequencing

Lesson 1 introduces the children to the idea of using lines in art and ensures that they are familiar with different vocabulary to describe lines. Lesson 2 uses the work of Rembrandt and Miro to explore how artists can use lines to show different things before exploring how lines can be made from different media. Lesson 3 and 4 look at lines in the work of Miro in more detail, at the end of which the children produce a Miro-like work on a large scale as a group. Lesson 5 explores the importance of lines to Paul Klee during which the children discuss the famous statements he made about the subject. They draw pictures of their own families in the style of Klee using rulers to create simple shapes. The unit finishes with the children using the work of a Minnie Pwerle as inspiration for creating an imaginative painting in a free style using repeated lines in bright colours.

Key concepts covered in this unit are line, using different media to create lines, using lines to create closed shapes and the primary colours.

Key skills

Drawing skills covered in this unit include:

- Holding the pencil using a firm but relaxed grip as for writing
- Using light, fluid lines, not pressing too hard with the pencil
- Using different kinds of line to describe different shapes/objects/patterns
- Drawing straight lines using a ruler, holding the ruler with one hand and drawing lines against the ruler

Painting skills covered in this unit include:

- Holding a brush like a pencil to give good control.
- Controlling the amount of water/paint that is loaded onto the brush.
- Pulling the brush smoothly.
- Washing the brush before loading it with a new colour.
- Mixing colours thoroughly in a mixing palette.
- Paint using repeated lines, close together.

Sticking and printing skills are also used in this unit. This includes applying a thick layer of glue with a glue stick and dipping the edges of printing objects into paint to create lines.

Key processes covered in this unit are analysing other artists' work, using the imagination to create their own work, evaluating their own work and working in a group to create a piece of work.

Key disciplinary concepts covered in this unit include understanding that lines are like basic tools for artists; lines can be used to show real things, shapes and patterns; different materials can be used to create lines; using the imagination to create a picture.

Outcomes

Children carry out a separate task in each lesson of this unit. Three of these can be described as 'convergent' tasks (following guided instructions so that pupils reach broadly similar outcomes as each other). These are:

- Drawing lines and shapes like Miro
- Creating a large picture in a group in the style of Miro
- Drawing a family in the style of Klee

Three of the tasks which the children undertake can be described as 'divergent' (using specified techniques but with unspecified endpoints). These are:

- Exploring making different lines using different materials
- Drawing a park using different kinds of line
- Making a painting from repeated lines using the imagination