

## Crayon Shapes



Lesson developed by artist, David Muenzer

### Objective

Students will learn how to work with crayons and shapes in a new way to create unusual textures. Through this process they will also learn how to identify emotions and use art as a language to describe said emotions.

**Age** Kindergarten and up

**Time** 45 mins

**Focus** STEM, Visual Arts (Shape, Color, Texture, Line)

### Material

- Crayons
- 2-3 pieces of white paper

### Core Standards

- Common Core: Math - Model shapes in the world by building shapes from components; Compose simple shapes to form larger shapes.
- Visual Arts: Engage in exploration and **imaginative play** with various arts **materials**.

(See below for a full list of standards.)

### Opening (5 mins)

Begin with an overview of the activity.

- *Today, we will be exploring ways to make textures pop on the page by using peeled crayons.*

- *Have you ever peeled the label off of crayons before? Let's try it. This will allow us to use the crayons in a different way than we usually do.*

Distribute 3 crayons and 2-3 pieces of paper per student.

### **Instruction and Guided Practice (10 mins)**

**Step 1.** *Peel the paper label off of the crayons and set aside. (See example on resource page.)*

**Step 2.** *Take a piece of paper and fold it into a shape. You can fold the paper a few different times to create a unique shape. (See example on resource page.)*

**Step 3.** *Place a full piece of paper over top of the folded paper shape and rub the crayon over the shape to create neat textures and new shapes on your paper. You can move the shape underneath the paper to make symmetry, creating the same shape, one on each side of your paper. You are basically creating a stencil. Use your imagination! (See examples on resource page.)*

### **Work Time (25 mins)**

Circulate the classroom and help students as needed.

### **Closing (5 mins)**

Students place their artwork on the table. Students walk around the room in small groups to view everyone's artwork.

### **Extension:**

2nd-5th Grade: Put students into groups of 2-3. They should work with the group to collect various leaves, flowers, branches, or other objects from outside. Together, they will place the objects underneath the paper and rub their crayons over top to create nature inspired shapes and textures.

### **Philosophy**

Art is an essential tool for early childhood development. Studies have shown that art education helps to increase comprehension of STEM and literacy concepts as well as offering students an outlet to process trauma, develop self-discipline and self-management, and interpersonal relationship skills. Active engagement in the arts can yield positive benefits in social and emotional growth. The art lessons developed by Crayon Collection are meant to support this growth.

## Standards

### Common Core

#### Math

##### Identify and Describe Shapes

- Describe objects in the environment using names of shapes, and describe the relative positions of these objects using terms such as *above*, *below*, *beside*, *in front of*, *behind*, and *next to*.
- Correctly name shapes regardless of their orientations or overall size.

##### Analyze, Compare, Create, and Compose Shapes

- Model shapes in the world by building shapes from components (e.g., sticks and clay balls) and drawing shapes.
- Compose simple shapes to form larger shapes. *For example, "Can you join these two triangles with full sides touching to make a rectangle?"*

##### Describe and Compare Measurable Attributes

- Directly compare two objects with a measurable attribute in common, to see which object has "more of"/"less of" the attribute, and describe the difference.

### Social Emotional Competency

#### Self Management

- Monitor progress toward personal and academic short- and long-term goals
- Attention control (maintain optimal work performance)

### Visual Arts Standards

#### Creating

- 1.1 Engage in exploration and **imaginative play** with various arts **materials**.
- 2.1 Through experimentation, build skills in various **media** and approaches to artmaking.

### About the Artist

David Muenzer lives and works in Los Angeles. Recent exhibitions include *Scalar-Daemon* at Reserve Ames and *never hit send* at 356 Mission Road in Los Angeles. In 2011, he organized *14 & 15*, an experimental exhibition on two floors of the Lipstick Building in New York City. He received his BA from Yale University in 2009 and his MFA from the University of Southern California in 2014.

### Additional Resource

Step 1. Fold a piece of paper to create a shape



Step 2. Peel crayons



# CRAYON COLLECTION

COLLECT -> CONTRIBUTE -> CREATE

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Step 3. Place the shape underneath the paper and rub the crayon on it, making it textured. Move the shape underneath the paper to create more shapes (symmetrical or asymmetrical). Rub the crayon over the paper in many different directions.

