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Piet Mondrian-Dutch Abstract Painter

1. Overview

- a. Piet Mondrian (later Mondrian) was a Dutch painter who began his life as a painter of landscapes and portraits who evolved to become one of the most important abstract painters of the 20th century. Barbara Mason discusses his life and focuses on his later work, although the lesson is full of his earlier paintings. His use of form and color was an inspiration to numerous fashion designers and commercial artists for years after his death in 1944. Barbara shows students the work of Mondrian, his use of color, and geometry. Students will be introduced to abstract work through the study of Mondrian's art and the exploration with how art feels and how abstract art refines the subject of a piece of art to its essence.

- a. Grade level: Kindergarten-5th Grade

- b. Vocabulary

- i. Abstract

- ii. Template

- iii. Horizontal

- iv. Vertical

- v. Design

- vi. Non-objective

- vii. Movement

- viii. Concept

- ix. Stegosaurus

- c. Art Medium

- i. Printer paper

- ii. Ruler

- iii. Crayons

- iv. Colored pencils

- v. Crayons

- vi. Downloadable template on website

2. Interesting Facts

- a. Mondrian also enjoyed dancing. He saw music and movement in his art. Do you see this when you look at his art? Do you think the music that Piet Mondrian listened to as he created his art had fast movement or slow movement?

- b. In 1965, French fashion designer, Yves Saint Laurent, unveiled the Mondrian Collection; six cocktail dresses embracing the artist's color blocking style.
- c. Sadly, Piet Mondrian contracted the Spanish Flu in 1918 which killed millions. He was sick for many months and recuperated at home painting and working on his art.
- d. Piet Mondrian was also an accomplished artist in realism. He was an art teacher and taught his students how to draw. He sketched detailed images for scientific studies, and painted reproductions of great works for museums.
- e. In 2015, A canvas by Piet Mondrian fetched \$50.6 million at a Christie's sale in New York.

3. Lesson Plan

a. Elements of Art

- i. Line,
- ii. Shape,
- iii. Form
- iv. Value
- v. Color

b. Principles of Art

- i. Rhythm
- ii. Balance
- iii. Emphasis (contrast)
- iv. Proportion
- v. Gradation
- vi. Harmony
- vii. Variety
- viii. Movement

c. Visualization

- i. How does Mondrian create movement in his art?
- ii. How is Mondrian's art mathematical?
- iii. At one time, Mondrian painted realistic landscapes, but as he painted more and more, his style began to change. He started to create abstract images. How did he come to paint this way? The more Mondrian looked at trees, buildings, and vases, the more he saw their basic shapes and colors. You can try this too.

Just squint your eyes while you are looking at something and all the details will start to disappear. You will see only shapes and color, no real objects. This is what Mondrian did.

Eventually, Mondrian's style consisted of geometric shapes and primary colors. He felt he had reached the essence of his subject.

- d. Goals and Objectives
 - i. Students will understand the concept of abstract art.
 - ii. Students will understand the essence of Mondrian's art.
- e. Students Critique Questions
 - i. What do you like about your art project?
 - ii. What do you like about your classmates' art projects?
 - iii. How does your art differ from a realistic drawing?

4. Standards Met

- a. To meet standards, students should be encouraged to watch the following videos
 - i. Piet Mondrian – 'Abstract Painting as We Know It' | TateShots
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkq5jQhHOWE>
 - ii. This Mondrian Painting is Actually a Jazz Score
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05KLW-xsoxE>

COMPLIANCE WITH EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS (PER GRADE)

Kindergarten

VA.1.CR1.K #1. & #2., VA.2.CR2.K #1 & #3., VA:Cr3..K #1. & #2.,
VA.8.RE2.K #1., VA.9.RE3.K #1., VA.10.CO1.K #1. & # 2.,
VA.11.CO2.K #1., VA:Cr1.1.Ka, VA:Cr1.2.Ka, VA:Cr2.1.Ka,
VA:Cr3.1.Ka, VA:Re.7.2.Ka, VA:Re8.1Ka, VA:Re9.1.Ka, VA:Cn10.1.Ka

1st Grade

VA.1.CR1.1 #1., #2., & #3., VA.2.CR2.1 #1., VA.3.CR3.1 #1.
& #2., VA.8.RE.2.1 #1., VA.9.RE3.1 #1., VA.10.CO1.1 #1. & #2.,
VA:Cr1.1.1a, VA:Cr1.2.1a, VA:Cr2.1.1a, VA:Cr3.1.1a, VA:Pr4.1.1a,
VA:Re7.2.1a, VA:Re8.1.1a, VA:Re9.1.1a, VA:Cn11.1.Ka

2nd Grade

VA.1.CR1.2 #1. #2. & #3., VA.2.CR2.2 #1. & #3., VA.3.CR3.2
#1. #2. & #3., VA.5.PR2.2 #2. VA.7.RE1.2 #2., VA.8.RE2.2
#1., VA.9.RE3.2 #1., VA.10.CO1.2 #2., VA.11.CO2.2 #2., VA:Cr1.1.2a,

VA:Cr1.2.2a, VA:Cr2.1.2a, VA:Cr3.1.2a, VA:Pr6.1.2.a, VA:Re.7.1.2a,
VA:Re.7.2.2a, VA:Re8.1.2a, VA:Re9.1.2a, VA:Cn11.1.2a

3rd Grade

VA.1.CR1.3 #2. & #3., VA.2.CR2.3 #1., VA.3.CR3.3 #1. #2. #3.,
VA.5.PR2.3 #1., VA.7.RE1.3 #2., VA.8.RE2.3 #1. & #2., VA.9.RE3.3 #1
& #2., VA.10.CO1.3 #2., VA.11.CO2.3 #1. & #2., VA:Cr1.1.3a,
VA:Cr1.2.3a, VA:Cr2.1.3a, VA:Pr6.1.3a, VA:Re.7.1.3a,
VA:Re8.1.3a, VA:Re9.1.3a, VA:Cn11.1.3a

4th Grade

VA.2.CR2.4 #1. #2. & #3., VA.3.CR3.4 #1. #2. #3., VA.5.PR2.4 #1., #2.,
VA.7.RE1.4 #2. & #3., VA.8.RE2.4 #1., VA.9.RE3.4 #1. & #2.,
VA.11.CO2.4 #1. & #2., VA:Cr1.1.4a, VA:Cr1.2.4a, VA:Cr2.1.4a,
VA:Cr3.1.4a, VA:Pr6.1.4a, VA:Re.7.1.4a, VA:Re.7.2.4a, VA:Re8.1.4a,
VA:Re9.1.4a, VA:Cn11.1.4a

5th Grade

VA.CR1.5 #2. & #3., VA.2.CR2.5 #1., VA.3.CR3.5 #1. #2. & #3.,
VA.5.PR2.5 #1. #2. & #3., VA.7.RE1.5 #1. & #2., VA.8.RE2.5 #1.,
VA.9.RE3.5 #1 & #2., VA10.CO1.5 #1. & #2., VA.11.CO2.5 #1.,
VA:Cr1.1.5a, VA:Cr1.2.5a, VA:Cr2.1.5a, VA:Cr3.1.5a, VA:Pr6.1.5a,
VA:Re.7.1.5a, VA:Re8.1.5a, VA:Re9.1.5a, VA:Cn10.1.5a, VA:Cn11.1.5a