

Circle Vocabulary Paintings Inspired by Pratima Misra



Image Credit: Student Example

A HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITY
DESIGNED BY EMILY CAMPBELL

Description

Using the art of Pratima Misra as inspiration, students will create a watercolor piece that explores the geometric properties of circles. Students will use color to explore mathematical concepts and further develop their vocabulary with shapes.

Materials

- *Persimmons* by Pratima Misra (included at the end of the lesson)
- Video on the basics of circles in geometry.
- Compasses, circular items for tracing, or pieces of string & tape (to create compasses)
- Scrap paper
- Watercolor paper
- Pencils
- Fine tip and regular permanent markers
- Watercolor paints
- Paint brushes

Instructions

Day 1

- 1)** Show students the attached video on the basics of circles to expand or refresh their knowledge and prepare them for the upcoming activity.
 - Ask students if they have any questions.
- 2)** Show students *Persimmons* by Pratima Misra and use Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) to talk about the work.
 - VTS is an inquiry-based method of facilitating discussion. Tips and resources on VTS are included at the end of this lesson.
 - Be sure to point out the artist's use of color and shape in the piece. Encourage students to notice how she blends colors between the different shapes and there are very few touching shapes that are the same color.
- 3)** Give students scrap paper, pencils, and compasses or different sizes of circular objects to trace.
 - You could also give them tape and string and invite them to experiment to try and find a way to use these supplies to make a perfect circle. Have share out time for students to share techniques they are discovering. Try to imbed circle vocabulary from the video (like circumference, center, radius, and diameter) when you discuss students' techniques.
- 4)** When students find a successful way to use the tools to make circles, pass out the watercolor paper and instruct students to make 5-11 circles of various sizes. It is encouraged to have some overlapping circles for this activity.
- 5)** When students have finished drawing their circles, have them outline their circles with a permanent marker.

6) Students may now use watercolor paints to color the circles. Ask them to change color whenever they get to a circumference's edge.

- Students may freely use color, and experiment with variations like warm/color opposites, using colors to make the shape look like an animal, or truly random with a variety of colors.

7) Allow for the paintings to dry for a full 24 hours before moving on to the next step.

Day 2

8) Pass out fine tip permanent markers to the students and instruct them to label their paintings with the vocabulary we learned from the video at the beginning of this lesson.

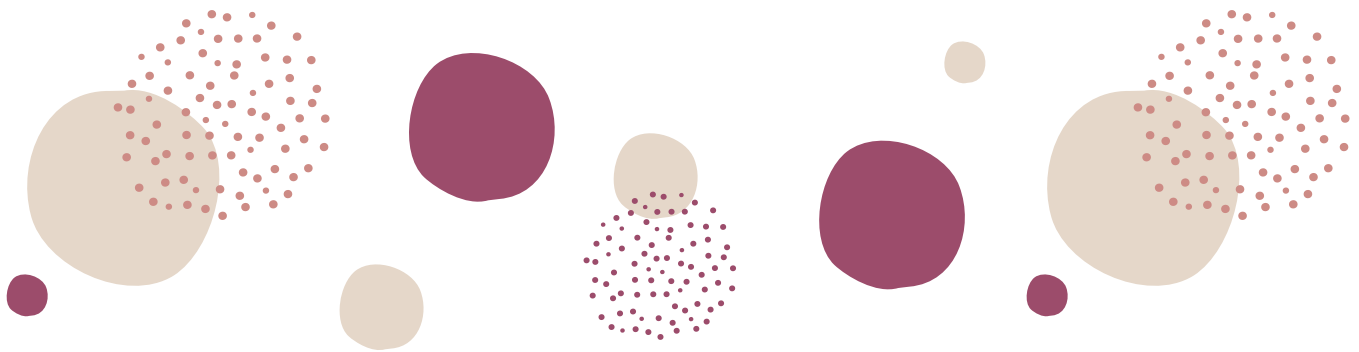
- Repeating the word as many time as the space will allow, follow a circumference around one circle with the word "circumference".
- Place a dot in the middle of another circle and label it center.
- In another circle from the center to the circumference edge label radius (repeated until the edge).
- Label the diameter and one chord inside the circle.
- Having students use the labels to not only will help their math vocabulary, but can increase the interest of their art.

9) Once students have finished labeling their work, bring the class together to reflect and share about the activity.

- Ask students how the activity went for them overall? What would they change if they had the change to do this again? Did this help them remember their circle vocabulary?

Relevant Vocabulary

- ✓ Circumference
- ✓ Center
- ✓ Radius
- ✓ Diameter
- ✓ Line
- ✓ Chord
- ✓ Segment



Learning and State Standards

Fulfills [Washington State Arts Learning Standards](#):

- **VA:Cr1.1.4** (Brainstorm multiple approaches to a creative art or design problem)
- **VA:Cr2.2.4** (When making works of art, utilize and care for materials, tools and equipment in a manner that prevents danger to oneself and others)

Visual Thinking Strategies

MoNA's Education programs utilize Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS), which is a research-based teaching method that promotes aesthetic development including critical thinking and communication skills. Here in the MoNA, we use VTS to engage students and general visitors with art encouraging them to observe closely, think critically and discuss respectfully; however, VTS can be effectively used across curricula. This approach teaches its participants how to take the time to observe closely, describe what they see in detail and provide evidence for their observations. Students learn that their reflections and thoughts are valued and appreciated in this inclusive teaching method.

In order to facilitate a VTS discussion, you first encourage viewers to take a quiet moment to observe the work you are going to explore. Then you ask the following questions and paraphrase the responses without adding any of your own judgements. You can insert additional vocabulary and point to specific parts of the artwork.

What's going on in this picture?

What do you see that makes you say...?

What more can you find?

Visual Thinking Strategy Links

If you are interested in learning more about VTS, [here is their website](#). If you already know and love VTS, but want help finding great images to use in your classroom, here is a [fantastic gallery](#). You can also visit this website for additional resources: www.monamuseum.org/resources-for-educators

About the Artist: Pratima Misra



Pratima Misra

Image Credit: Southwest Washington Watercolor Society

Pratima Misra is a watercolor painter that works in Southwest Washington and Cupertino, California. Misra holds a Doctorate degree in Geography and is a self taught artist. Inspired by her mother's art hobby, Misra has held a passion for art throughout her entire life. Misra finds inspiration for her art in the beauty of nature, and her work can be found in many private collections.

**I TRY TO SHARE MY FEELINGS BY
EXPRESSING THEM IN MY PAINTINGS.**

-PRAMITA MISRA



Persimmons, Pratima Misra

Image Source: Southwest Washington Watercolor Society