

Making Art with Shapes We Find in Our Environments

Essential Question	How can we make art out of the shapes that we find in our environments?
Grade	1st
Time	60 minutes
Art Concepts	Color, shape, organic shapes, geometric shapes, lines
Materials	Paper, pencil, black marker, colored pencils or crayons or markers
Artwork in Focus	Ffwsptffwsptffwspt, 2000 by Ingrid Calame
Talking about Art	<p>What colors do you see? What shapes do you see? Can you trace one of the shapes with your finger? Do any of these shapes remind you of something in the world (like plants, leaves, flowers, or water)?</p> <p>Ingrid Calame is a Los Angeles artist who makes paintings like this one. She often traces things for her paintings. She will find things out in the world or in nature and trace them, then incorporate them into her artwork. You are going to do something similar today!</p>

The shapes that we usually find in nature, that we don't have a name for, are called **organic shapes**. Sometimes they are squiggly, or zigzaggy; they can look like all different kinds of things, but they are *not* squares, rectangles, triangles, or any other shape you know the name of. Those are called **geometric shapes**. We may use both kinds of **shapes** in our artwork.

Making Art

Today we're going to make art out of the shapes we find in our environment.

1. Start by finding some objects in your home that will fit on your paper. They could be anything from the bottom of a box of cereal to a cup to a roll of tape. Trace them on your paper.
2. Try to find some organic shapes either in or outside your home. If you want to go outside, make sure to bring an adult with you! Find some things in nature, like leaves, rocks, flowers, and/or blades of grass. If you'd rather stay inside, try to find some organic shapes in your home, like a leaf from a plant or a piece of fruit or a vegetable.
3. On the same paper, trace these objects. Remember: Your shapes can overlap!
4. If you still have some space left on your paper, you can find more objects to trace, or you can trace the same objects again.
5. Once your paper is looking pretty full, trace your pencil **lines** with a black marker or crayon. Your

shapes will have made new shapes when they overlapped. Color all of them in!

Reflection

What's your favorite shape that you created? Do any of the shapes that you created remind you of other things?

Let's take another look at Calame's painting. What shapes did you create in your artwork that were similar to the shapes in her painting? What shapes did you create in your artwork that were different from hers?

Curriculum Connections California Arts Standards for Public Schools—Visual Arts

1.VA:Cr1.1: Engage collaboratively in exploration and imaginative play with various arts materials. 1.VA:Cr1.2: Use observation and investigation in preparation for making a work of art.

Common Core State Standards Math

1.G.A.2: Compose two-dimensional shapes (rectangles, squares, trapezoids, triangles, half circles, and quarter circles) or three-dimensional shapes (cubes, right rectangular prisms, right circular cones, and right circular cylinders) to create a composite shape, and compose new shapes from the composite shape.

Common Core State Standards English Language Arts

SL.1.2: Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other

media. RI.1.9: Identify basic similarities in and differences between two texts on the same topic (e.g., in illustrations, descriptions, or procedures).

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