**Rhythm Patterns**

**Essential Question**

How do artists use lines and shapes to create patterns?

**Grade**

3

**Time**

50 minutes

**Art Concepts**

Composition, geometric shapes, patterns, abstraction, rhythm, lines

**Materials**

Pencil, pen, or marker; white paper. Optional: markers, colored pencils, ruler, shape stencils

**Artworks in Focus**

[*Ceremonial Textile Panel*, late 19th-early 20th century by Artist Unknown](https://collections.lacma.org/node/219939)

[*Textile*, mid-20th century by Artist Unknown](https://collections.lacma.org/node/177496)

**Talking about Art**

These two artworks were created in Africa in what is today known as the Democratic Republic of Congo. The artists created the panels by weaving together fibers from raffia palm trees. The raffia palm is used to create many types of products including textiles, rope, baskets, and roof coverings. These panels are pieces of abstract art, which is art that does not represent real-world objects or people or nature and is instead made up of lines, shapes, and colors.

Take some time to look at the artworks. Let your eyes explore the different lines and shapes in each piece. What geometric shapes do you see? What types of lines do you see? Notice how the lines and shapes form patterns. How would you describe the patterns you see? Are they always the same or do they change? Even though they might change, would you still say that they are patterns? What stays the same?

The repeating shapes and lines pull our eyes around the artwork. This feeling of movement in an artwork is called rhythm, and it can move in many different directions and have different speeds. Look at the artworks again. How do the lines and shapes move and change throughout each piece? How would you describe their rhythm?

**Making Art**

For this project, you will create a pattern by drawing abstract shapes and lines.

1. First, use a pencil to draw a geometric shape (triangle, circle, square, etc.) that is about two inches long on your paper. You can use a ruler, shape stencil, or draw it freehand.
2. Next, repeat the shape across the page to create a pattern. You can draw the shapes so that they all connect or radiate outward from the center, or you can draw larger or smaller versions of the shape, etc.
3. When you have filled your sheet of paper, decide if you would like to add details by adding color, filling in the shapes halfway, or leaving some of them blank. What techniques can you borrow or adapt from the textiles we looked at?

**Reflection**

* Look around your house to see if you can find any objects or clothing items that contain patterns. How would you describe the patterns you see? How are they similar to or different from the patterns you saw on the ceremonial textiles from Africa?
* How did you decide which shapes to use in your drawing? Are your shapes creating some type of rhythm?
* How did you feel while creating your drawing? If you were to do it over, what would you do differently?
* What title would you give your drawing?

**Curriculum Connections**

California Arts Standards for Public Schools - Visual Arts

3.VA:Cr1.1 Elaborate on an imaginative idea. 3.VA:Cr3 Discuss, reflect, and add details to enhance an artwork’s emerging meaning. 3.VA:Re8 Interpret art by analyzing use of media to create subject matter, characteristics of form, and mood.

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