

“O’Keeffe Flowers”



Objective: Student will understand use of “Space” in artwork by drawing large.

Materials

- White construction paper 12”x12”
- Pencils and Sharpie Markers
- Watercolor Paints

Motivation

- Talk about Warm, Cool and Neutral Colors. Review the Color Families.
- Introduce the artist O’Keeffe and talk about how she used very little background space in her artwork.
- Talk about O’Keeffe’s subject matter.

Step 1: Drawing the Object

Have students choose an object from nature to draw BIG. Here are 5 tips to help kids draw larger.

- Tell them the flower fell off right off the paper!
- Students MUST touch all 4 sides of their papers with their objects
- Give several examples and non examples of what is the right size and what isn’t
- Give students many different examples of TYPES of flowers to ensure variety
- Review the word OVERLAPPING and talk about how petals overlap

Step 2: Sharpie & Color Planning

After students outlined with Sharpie, I had them also define some parts with colored watercolor markers. Then, they filled in the spaces with watercolor. If students chose a cool color for the flower, I asked them to do a warm background. If students chose a warm color for the flower, I asked them to do a cool background. This was a great review of Warm and Cool Colors for the students as well.

Step 3: Paint

Allow students to paint independently, knowing the color rules and having color planned ahead of time. Students as young as 2nd grade can do this.

Tip: You can assess students on both their knowledge of warm and cool colors AND their ability to use the entire space of their paper to create large designs.