

Lichtenstein Inspired Art Literacy Project: Watercolor

Vocabulary

- **Pop Art:** Portrays things from popular culture, by incorporating logos, brand names, television and cartoon characters, and other consumer products into the artwork. (Lichtenstein was among the leading artists of the Pop Art movement.)
 - **Ben Day Dots:** Depending on the effect, color and optical illusion needed, small colored dots are closely spaced, widely spaced or overlapping. (This technique dates back to 1879 and was named after the illustrator and printer Benjamin Henry Day, Jr.)
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Materials:

- pencil (use student's)
 - gum eraser (1 per table)
 - Sharpies (1 regular-tip per student)
 - water color pencils (1-2 sets per table group to share)
 - water color paint brush (1 per student)
 - small cup of water (1 per student)
 - paper towel (1 per student)
 - watercolor paper (1 quarter sheet per student)
 - copy of the Sunset image to reference (2 per table; these will be reused)
 - construction paper to mount the projects onto (get this paper from the Workroom; 9x12 is sufficient)
 - newspaper to cover desks (to protect from Sharpie marks) OR 1 scrap paper sheet per student
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Making the project

1. After passing out paper, have each student write their name on what will become the back of their artwork.
2. Using pencil draw the Sunset image lightly (reference the copy at each table): lower section (land or water), middle section (sun with rays), upper section (clouds). Paper should be oriented landscape, not portrait.
 - Step 1: About 1-2 finger spaces from the top of the page, draw a wavy line (this is the top of the clouds)
 - Step 2: About 1-2 finger spaces from that wavy line, draw another wavy line; it does not have to match the first line drawn (this will be left white to form clouds)
 - Step 3: About 3-4 finger spaces from the bottom, draw a curved line, starting high and ending low on the opposite side of the paper (this will become the land/water)
 - Step 4: About in the middle of the page, find where this curved line peaks, and draw another curved line to the edge of the paper where the first line descended (this will become the land/water; students may also add interest like waves, etc., if they wish)
 - Step 5 (Optional): Add additional smaller lines to create bubbles/waves/additional interest in the land/water lines just drawn
 - Step 6: About in the middle of the page, find where the 2 curvy lines meet and draw a half circle (this will be the sun)
 - Step 7: From the far left of the half circle, draw a straight line out to the edge of the paper or to the clouds, depending on the angle of your line; continue making these straight lines about 1 finger space apart around the half circle (these are the sun's rays)

3. Go over the pencil with Sharpie. (Do not fill in anything. Simply outline areas.) Students may erase any stray pencil marks if they wish.
 4. Reference the powerpoint with the images of the use of Ben Day dots. Notice the difference of the various spacing of the dots/how closely they are placed together and how that affects the depth of color.
 5. Create Ben Day dots using the watercolor pencils. Students can choose their own colors and technique; they may also choose to lightly color in some sections to show bold color (note: coloring in will save time!)
 6. Using the watercolor brush and the small bowl of water, spread the paint around, starting with the lightest color. Try not to make the picture too wet, just enough to spread the color well. Make sure to clean the brush between color changes. Try to stay within the sections of color so that they don't run together.
 7. Make sure each student has signed his/her artwork.
 8. Attach the artwork to the back of the mounting paper along with the artist label, after drying.
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Modifications

Kindergarten - Use the photocopy of the Sunset on regular paper. Instead of using watercolor pencils, students can use their own markers to create the dots spaced differently.

1st Grade - Use the Kindergarten modifications, if needed.

*** If anyone finishes early and would like something else to do, students may try recreating this project using markers***

TIPS:

- Make sure the Sharpie lines go the edge of the paper and the sections don't have gaps.
- Rulers can be used for the sun's rays.
- Sharpies - Collect the Sharpies as the kids finish with them.
- Remember to wash paint brushes in cold water when you are finished with them.