Kandinsky, Klee & Mondrian

Kristina Barnaby
Fairfield Country Day School
Fairfield, CT USA
@kmbarn    #NCTM100
How it started …

stained glass window frames

https://tinyurl.com/y4fnd88a
Why art-infused lessons?

Art can be taught in many ways

— as curriculum
— to enhance curriculum
— integrated into curriculum
Can this be adapted for distance learning? Absolutely!
Piet Mondrian
Composition II in Red, Blue, and Yellow

Paul Klee
Castle and Sun

Wassily Kandinsky
Squares with Concentric Circles
PIET MONDRIAN

COMPOSITION IN RED, BLUE, AND YELLOW
Supplies for Mondrian

- 6” x 6” ceramic tile
- porcelain paint
- paint brushes
- artist tape (1/16” or 1/8”)

[Image of various art supplies]
Trouble shooting

- pen smears when drawing lines (use pencil)
- paint globs
- 2 coats needed
- dry in oven not kiln
- “I had to be neat with paint, and it’s really hard for me to be neat.”
PAUL KLEE
CASTLE AND SUN
Supplies for Klee

- 11”x14” canvas boards
- Sharpie markers
- crayons
- colored pencils
Trouble shooting

- markers could smear
- math could be challenging
- “The perfectness made it hard for me.”
- “If one of your numbers were wrong, you had to fix multiple things for the numbers to work.”
WASSILY KANDINSKY
SQUARES WITH CONCENTRIC CIRCLES
Supplies for Kandinsky

- heavy cardboard
- PlayColor tempera paint sticks
- rulers
- pencils
- scrap paper
Trouble shooting

- could be messy
- paint not always “fresh”
- very quick lesson
- “The circles were easy. There was not enough of a challenge.”
- “It was too messy for me.”
Influenced by Western European art, African sculpture, and music

Most famous for his collage work but also has painted and created murals and sculpture.

YOUNG STUDENTS, 1964
Good “Four” tune
Modifications for distance learning

- use cardstock, cardboard, printer paper
- colored pencils, crayons, markers
- watercolor (or homemade) paint
- black marker for lead lines (Mondrian)
- eye shadow (yep!)
Supplies for Bearden

- plywood or heavy cardboard
- colored pencils
- markers
- paint
- glue
- arts & crafts supplies
- newspapers, magazines
Trouble shooting

- lack of materials
- thinking of a collage idea
- picking big numbers
- glue can be tricky with smaller pieces
INPUT FROM THE BOYS

1. Which project did you like the best?

27 responses

- Piet Mondrian tiles: 44.4%
- Paul Klee Castle and Sun: 29.6%
- Wassily Kandinsky Concentric Circles: 25.9%
Why?

Mondrian

“It’s really colorful.”

“I like the sleek design.”

“I created a nice product that I personally would hang in a museum.”

Klee

“You could be the most creative.”

“I liked the planning.”

“I liked the symmetry.”

Kandinsky

“I liked the colors.”

“It was easy.”

“It didn’t require neatness.”
What did they learn?

**Mondrian**
- **area / perimeter**
  - 74%
  - not sure
  - 11%

**Klee**
- **fractions**
  - 41%
  - not sure
  - 26%
- **area / perimeter**
  - 22%

**Kandinsky**
- **area / circumference**
  - 52%
  - not sure
  - 26%
- **area / perimeter**
  - 15%
OVERALL THOUGHTS FROM THE BOYS

I loved working with art and math at the same time.

This was a change from how we normally learn math.

They were simple to do and looked great in the end.

I never knew there was an artist who drew circles that were not perfect.

This was a highlight of my year!
I liked it because the artist is Russian like me.

Learning about the artist made it more interesting.

There was too much math in it than art.

It did not engage me enough.

I hated it.

I liked it because the artist is Russian like me.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO DIFFERENTLY NEXT YEAR?

Spend more time on the projects so we are not rushed.

Study the math topics separately, and do these as back-up activities.

Make the circles more exciting. Add something to it.

Do more math because I don’t remember the concepts.

Keep combining things that are fun with math.
14. Don't think too much about this question: Were these projects math lessons or art lessons?

27 responses

- Math: 66.7%
- Art: 33.3%
References


National Gallery of Art. An Eye for Art: Questioning Traditions - Romare Bearden

https://www.nga.gov/content/dam/ngaweb/Education/learning-resources/an-eye-for-art/AnEyeforArt-RomareBearden.pdf

QUESTIONS? EMAIL US!

kristina.barnaby@fairfieldcountryday.org

elaine.klabonski@fairfieldcountryday.org