



ELEMENTS AND PRINCIPLES OF ART

✦ *The Building Blocks and
Rules of Visual Creation* ✦

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Is Art Just About Drawing Well?

A child draws
a purple sun.



Another makes
a house bigger
than a mountain.



Someone
colors the
sky orange.



Are they doing
art "wrong"?



Art is not simply about making things look realistic.
It is about making **visual choices**.

What makes an artwork **interesting**,
beautiful, **powerful**, or **memorable**?

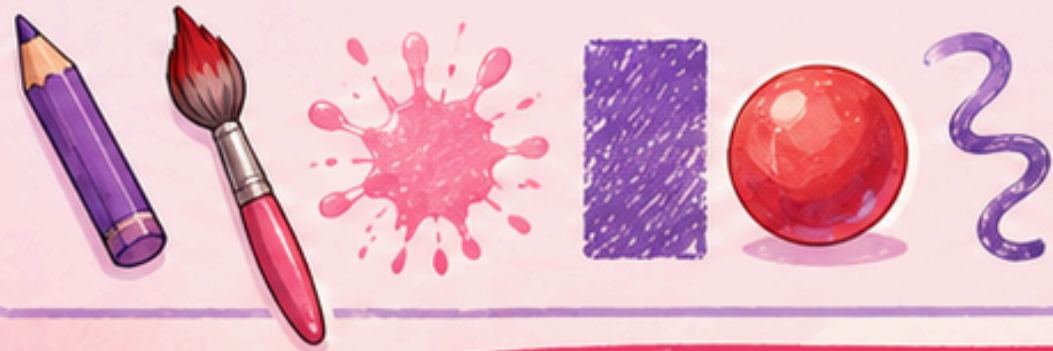
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Two Big Ideas *in* Art

Think of visual art as having two important parts:

ELEMENTS OF ART

The things an artist uses.



PRINCIPLES OF ART

The ways an artist organizes and combines those things.



Simple analogy:

Elements =
ingredients

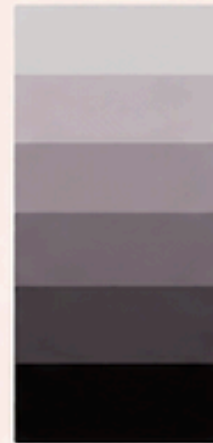
Principles =
recipe



The 7 Elements of Art

What Is Art Made Of?

♥ The Elements of Art are the **basic visual components** artists use to create artworks. ♥

LINE	SHAPE	FORM	COLOR	VALUE	TEXTURE	SPACE
						
A path made by a moving point.	A flat, enclosed area with a 2D form.	A three-dimensional object.	The hue in an artwork.	The lightness or darkness of a color.	The way a surface feels or looks like it feels.	The area around, between, or within objects.

⇒ Every artwork uses **one or more** of these elements. ⇐



LINE

A Dot That Went for a Walk! ♥

A **line** is a path created by a moving point.

⇒ Lines may be: ⇐

STRAIGHT



CURVED



WAVY



ZIGZAG



THICK



THIN



BROKEN



Lines can create **movement**, **direction**, **emotion**, **patterns**, and **boundaries**. ♥

Try it:

Draw a line that looks **angry**.

Now draw one that looks **sleepy**.

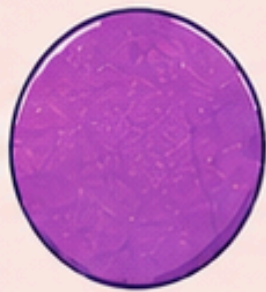


SHAPE

When Lines Meet

A **shape** is a flat, enclosed area with height and width.

Geometric Shapes



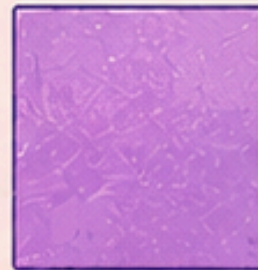
Circle



Square



Triangle



Rectangle

Organic Shapes

Irregular shapes inspired by nature—leaves, clouds, puddles, flowers.



What shapes can you find around the classroom?



FORM

Shape Goes 3D!

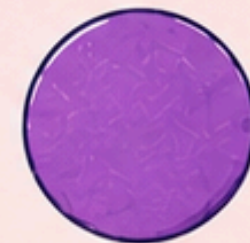
Form refers to objects that have:
Height + Width + Depth

Form makes objects
appear three-dimensional.



Think: A circle is **flat**.
A ball has **form**.

Examples:



Circle



Sphere



Square



Cube



Triangle



Pyramid





COLOR



♡ The Element That Changes the Mood ♡

Color can communicate emotion, atmosphere, identity, and meaning.

★ Primary Colors ★



Red



Yellow



Blue

★ Secondary Colors ★



Orange



Green



Violet



☀ Warm Colors



Red



Orange



Yellow

❄ Cool Colors



Blue



Green



Violet



Challenge: Can a painting feel happy without using yellow?



VALUE

♡ Lights, Darks, and Everything Between ♡

Value refers to how light or dark a color appears.



Light



VALUE



Dark

Artists use value to create:



Depth



Contrast



Form



Mood

Without changes
in value, objects
may appear flat.

Mini
activity:



Turn one pencil into five shades—
from barely visible to *very dark*.



CREATE
INSPIRE
IMAGINE

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TEXTURE

♥ Can Your Eyes "Feel" It? ♥

Texture describes how a surface feels—or appears to feel.

Actual Texture

can physically be touched ♥



Rough bark



Soft cotton



Smooth stone

Visual Texture

looks textured but the surface may be flat ♥



💡 Question: How would you draw something fluffy without actually making it fluffy? ?



CREATE
INSPIRE
IMAGINE



QUICK CHECK!

♡ Name That Element! ♡

Look at a **colorful** artwork.



1 Where can you find **LINE**? ?



2 What **SHAPES** do you see? ?



3 Which objects show **FORM**? ?



4 What **COLORS** dominate? ?



5 Where are the light and dark **VALUES**? ?



6 What **TEXTURES** can you imagine? ?



7 How is **SPACE** used? ?



Teacher reminder:

Move students from “I like it” to “I notice...”

INSPIRE
CREATE
IMAGINE

BALANCE

Does the Artwork Feel Stable?

Balance refers to the distribution of visual weight.

Symmetrical Balance

Both sides are similar.



Asymmetrical Balance

Different objects create equal visual weight.



Radial Balance

Elements radiate from a central point.



Examples: butterfly • seesaw • sunflower ♥



CONTRAST

♡ *Opposites Attract Attention* ♡

Contrast occurs when noticeably different elements are placed together.

Light vs. Dark



Large vs. Small



Rough vs. Smooth



Warm vs. Cool



➤ Contrast creates **visual interest** and **clarity**. ⚡

?

Question:

Which gets noticed faster—
a **red dot** among red dots or a **yellow dot** among red dots?



EMPHASIS

Look Here!

Emphasis creates a **focal point**—the part of the artwork that attracts attention first.

Artists create emphasis through:

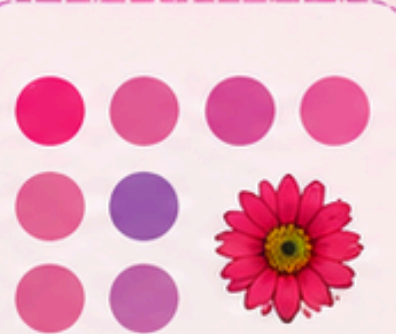
Color



Size



Placement



Contrast



Isolation



Challenge:

Where did your eyes look first?
What made you look there?



MOVEMENT & RHYTHM

♥ *Make the Eyes Dance* ♥



Movement
guides the viewer's
eyes through
an artwork.



Rhythm
is created through
repetition, producing a
sense of visual beat or flow.

Think:



Music
has rhythm.



Art
can have
rhythm too.



**Repeated lines, shapes,
colors, or patterns** can
make the viewer's eyes
move across the composition.



PATTERN

Repeat. Repeat. Repeat.

A **pattern** is the **repetition** of visual elements in a predictable arrangement.

Patterns can use:

Lines



Shapes



Colors



Symbols

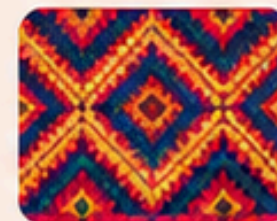


Motifs



Look around:

clothing, tiles, baskets, fabrics, leaves, and indigenous designs all demonstrate patterns.



Activity:

Create a simple repeating motif using only **three shapes**.



UNITY & VARIETY

Together... But Not Boring!

UNITY

makes the parts of an artwork feel connected and complete.



VARIETY

adds differences to create interest and prevent monotony.



Too much unity →



boring!

Too much variety →



chaotic!

Unity + Variety →



interesting
and cohesive

Great compositions often balance
sameness with difference.



ELEMENTS + PRINCIPLES

= Visual Communication

ELEMENTS are what we use.

Elements:



Line



Shape



Form



Color



Value



Texture



Space

PRINCIPLES are how we use them.

Principles:



Balance



Contrast



Emphasis



Movement



Pattern



Rhythm



Unity



Variety

Use the **ELEMENTS** with the **PRINCIPLES** to create *clear, expressive, and meaningful* artworks!



Final Challenge

On a blank sheet, You will **create an artwork** that shows **how you feel today**—without writing a single word.

After creating your artwork, answer the following questions:

1

Which **elements** did you use?



2

Which **principles** helped communicate your idea?



*Art is not only about **what we create**.
It is also about the **choices we make** while creating it.*





Art

is not what you see,

but what you make

others see.



- Art has the power to
inspire, heal, challenge,
and *change* the world.

Create with heart. Impact with meaning.

