

Art Lesson Plan

1.) Newspaper Street Art: Stencil Layer Paintings

Objective

Students will:

- Learn how to build layered backgrounds
- Create and cut their own stencil
- Use contrast and negative space
- Explore bold graphic design

You can briefly mention artists like Banksy (without getting too deep into politics) to show how stencils are used in street art.

Supplies (For 8–10 students)

- Newspapers (lots!)
- Cardstock or mixed media paper (base)
- Glue sticks or Mod Podge
- Acrylic paint (black + 3–4 bold colors)
- Sponge brushes or small foam dabbers
- Cardstock for stencils
- Pencils
- Scissors
- X-acto knife (YOU use this, not kids, unless 11–12 with supervision)

- Tape

Class Structure (60–75 Minutes)

10 min – Background Layer

1. Tear newspaper into different shapes.
2. Glue onto base paper.
3. Overlap pieces.
4. Let some headlines show — that's part of the look.

Optional:

Lightly brush diluted paint over parts for a tinted effect.

Let this sit for a few minutes to set.

10 min – Design Planning

Have students sketch:

- A bold word (HOPE, BRAVE, DREAM)
- A symbol (heart, lightning bolt, eye, star)
- Silhouette of a figure or animal

Important:

Stencils work best when shapes are bold and simple.

HOW TO MAKE A STENCIL (Kid-Friendly Version)

Step 1: Draw Bold Shape

- On cardstock, draw a simple, thick-lined design.
- Avoid tiny details.

- No skinny connections.

Step 2: Add “Bridges” (VERY IMPORTANT)

If the design has holes (like the middle of an “O” or inside an eye), you must leave small strips connecting them.

Example:

- The center of an “O” cannot float.
- Leave little bars connecting it to the outer shape.

Step 3: Cut It Out

- Younger kids (7–9): Cut simple outer shapes with scissors.
- Older kids (10–12): You carefully help with craft knife details.

Tape stencil edges down when painting so it doesn’t slide.

25–30 min – Stencil Painting

1. Place stencil on dry newspaper background.
2. Tape edges.
3. Use sponge brush — dab, don’t brush.
4. Use less paint than they think (prevents bleeding).

10 min – Add Extra Layers

Options:

- Add paint splatter.
- Outline stencil with paint pen.
- Add a second smaller stencil.
- Add drips for street effect.

Age Adjustments

7–8 years old:

- Use pre-made simple stencils (stars, lightning bolts, hearts)
- Focus more on collage

9–12 years old:

- Design their own word or symbol
- Layer multiple stencil prints

2.) Swirl Energy Paintings (Flow & Movement Art)

Objective

Teach kids how to:

- Create movement through curved lines
- Curate color scheme
- Express emotion through flow

This becomes less about “painting an object” and more about painting energy.

Supplies (For 8–10 students)

- 9x12 or 11x14 canvas paper
- Acrylic paint (bright colors + white + black)
- Medium round brushes
- Water cups
- Paper towels
- paint pens for outlining

Class Structure (60–70 minutes)

5–10 min – Artist Talk & Examples

Show them a few of my swirly paintings.

“When I paint like this, I’m not painting a thing — I’m painting a feeling.”

Ask:

- Does this look calm or wild?
- What kind of music would match this?

This helps them connect art to emotion.

10 min – Demo: How to Make Swirls

On a demo paper:

1. Start with one curved line (like an S shape).
2. Add lines that follow it — almost like wind.
3. Keep curves flowing in the same direction.

Important rule: No sharp zigzags — everything flows.

35–40 min – Paint Time

Step-by-step structure:

Step 1: Base Flow (5–10 min)

Students draw 3–5 large curved lines lightly in pencil.

Step 2: Block In Color (15 min)

Paint inside sections with bold colors.

Encourage:

- Warm vs cool contrast
- Flowing lines
- thin outline with paint pen.

10 min – Gallery Reflection

Lay them out together.

Ask:

- Which painting feels the calmest?
- Which feels the most powerful?
- What mood did you try to show?

3.) Paper Mosaic Animal Silhouettes or Beach Scene

Objective

- Students learn about shape, contrast, and pattern while creating a bold mosaic design.
- briefly mention how mosaics were used in places like ancient Rome or churches — tiny pieces forming one big image.

Theme Options (Let Them Choose)

- Jungle animals
- Ocean creatures
- Pets
- Butterflies
- Or even nature scapes like the beach, palm trees, surf board, waves, ect

Supplies (For 8–10 students)

- 9x12 cardstock (dark colors work best)
- Pre-printed silhouettes (or students can trace from templates)
- Construction paper in lots of colors
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Optional: metallic paper for sparkle

Prep Tip: Pre-cut some strips of construction paper so younger kids (7–8) aren't overwhelmed cutting tiny pieces.

Class Structure (60–70 Minutes)

5–10 min – Introduction

- Show a few mosaic examples.
- Ask: What happens when small pieces come together?
- Explain: “Today we’re building a picture out of tiny pieces — like puzzle art.”

10 min – Setup

- Students choose their animal silhouette.
- Glue silhouette onto background.
- Lightly outline where they want color changes.

35–40 min – Mosaic Time

1. Cut or tear small squares/triangles.
2. Glue them inside the shape (or outside for a reverse mosaic effect).
3. Encourage:
 - Color patterns (all blues together)
 - Gradients (dark to light)
 - Texture changes

For older kids (10–12): Challenge them to use directional pieces to show movement (like fur or waves).

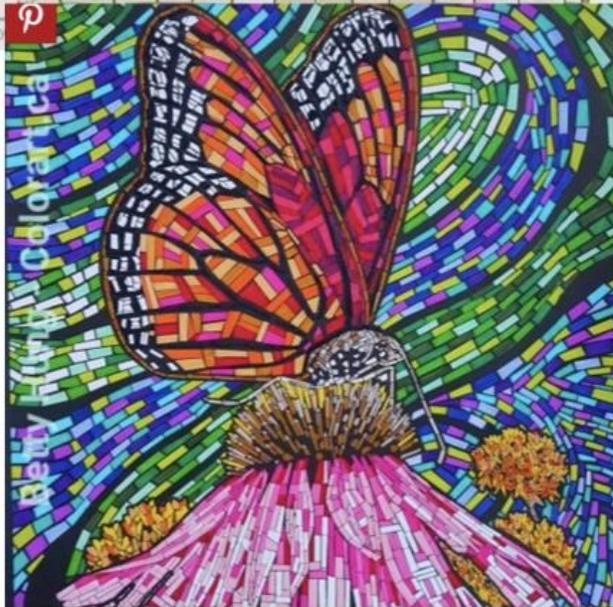
10 min – Reflection & Share

Ask:

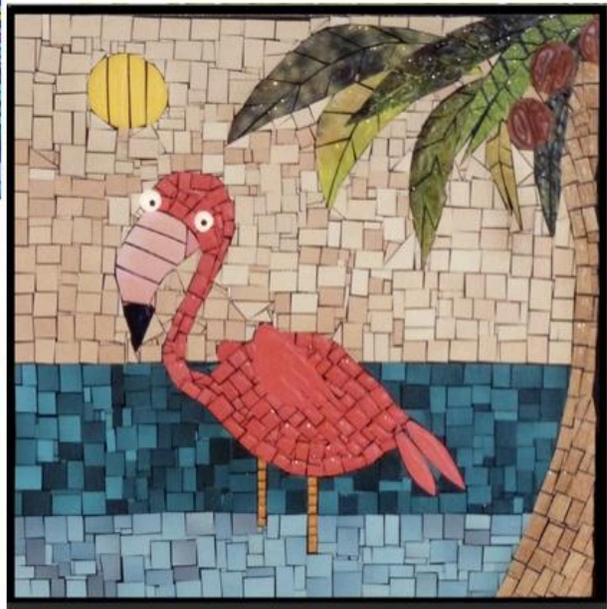
- What color combo did you choose and why?
- Was it easier or harder than you thought?

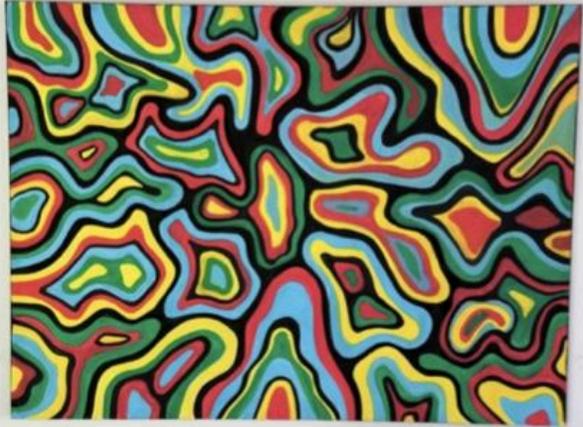


**NEWSPAPER
PROJECT
INSPO**



**PAPER MOSAIC
PROJECT INSPO**





***SWIRLY PAINTING
PROJECT INSPO***