

MAKE A PAINTING WITH DOTS

AGES 3 AND UP

**ARTS
FUN**
FROM ART TO HEART

This activity—suitable as a classroom lesson plan or at-home activity—uses a book, art works, and hands-on activity to learn about the style of painting called pointillism.

MATERIALS

- book *The Name of the Tree*, a Bantu Folktale Retold by Celia Barker Lottridge.
- Q-tips and paint, OR
- sticker dots in the primary colors of red, yellow, and blue
- paper
- tape
- pencil for sketching
- pictures or computer images of art works by Georges Seurat, available at the WebMuseum web site <http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/seurat>

DIRECTIONS

Read the book *The Name of the Tree*. While reading, ask the children to look at the pictures and describe what they see, both in terms of the content and the style. What animals do they see? Where are the animals? Do they see lines in the paintings? Dots? Shapes?

This book includes beautiful illustrations by Ian Wallace. They are of African animals in African landscapes. Wallace uses a style of art called pointillism for the illustrations in this book. Pointillism uses tiny dots side by side to build form. To make secondary colors, dots of primary colors are placed together. The viewer's eye optically blends the colors to make secondary colors.

After reading the book and discussing the illustrations, show more examples of pointillism. Show some works by Georges Seurat. He was the developer of pointillism.

After discussing the pictures in the book have children try pointillism in their own artwork. They can create pictures similar to those in the book or designs and images of their own choosing, using either Q-tips dipped in paint in primary colors or by placing sticker dots on paper. Let them try placing primary colors next to each other and see what happens when you look at the art work.

Display the works. Follow-up by reading the book again and discuss what children remember about the story: What did the turtle do differently from the other animals and how did it help him? Can the children recall the name of the tree? Can they repeat what turtle said to himself?

What is something the children need to remember? As an extension activity, children might create a simple tune to make a "memory song."

IF DOING THIS IN THE CLASSROOM...

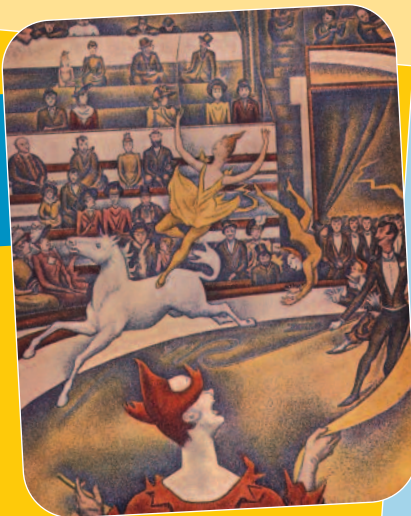
Kentucky Early Childhood Standards Met:

Birth to 3:
Communication Standard 1, Look for Benchmark 1.2 in child(ren)
Communication Standard 2, Look for Benchmark 2.1 and 2.2 in child(ren)
Communication Standard 3, Look for Benchmark 3.1 and 3.2 in child(ren)
Cognitive Standard 1, Look for Benchmark 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 in child(ren)
Creative Expression Standard 1, Look for Benchmark 1.1 and 1.2 in child(ren)
3s and 4s:
Language Arts Standard 1, Look for Benchmark 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 in child(ren)
Language Arts Standard 2, Look for Benchmark 2.1 and 2.2 in child(ren)

Language Arts Standard 3, Look for Benchmark 3.1, 3.5 and 3.6 in child(ren)
Arts and Humanities Standard 1, Look for Benchmark 1.1 and 1.3 in child(ren)

Core Content 4.1 for Primary Standards Met:

AH-EP-1.4.1: Students will identify or describe elements of art and principles of design in works of art.
AH-EP-3.4.1: Students will experience visual art works created for a variety of purposes.
AH-06-4.4.2: Students will use a variety of art media, processes and subject matter to communicate ideas, feelings and experiences.



✿ *The Circus*
by Georges Seurat