

VIRTUAL CLUB PELICAN

Project Title: Andy Warhol Inspired Camouflage Patterns

Theme: Biomimicry

Age Range: 7-12 years

PROJECT INTRODUCTION: Artists will create four camouflage patterns inspired by artist Andy Warhol. You will be creating 4 small works of art similar to Andy Warhol's Camouflage Series of paintings inspired by the biomimicry of camouflage. Look closely at the pictures included with this lesson to see how camouflage is used in nature (these are pretty tricky!), in the human world, and in the art of Andy Warhol.



PROJECT MATERIALS:

- Pencil
- 1 Piece of White Cardstock (8 ½"x 11")
- Crayola Markers
- Scissors

PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. Have you seen camouflage patterns on clothing and vehicles? Why does it look the way it does? Why is it used?
2. What do you think camouflage patterns are based off of in nature?
3. Why is camouflage important in nature?
4. Who is Andy Warhol and how does his art relate to camouflage? How does he take a scientific idea such as camouflage and use it in his artwork?

DISCUSSION (discuss or read):

What is biomimicry and how is camouflage patterning an example of biomimicry?

Biomimicry is a practice that learns from and mimics the strategies found in nature to solve human design challenges. Learning from nature's wisdom, biomimicry's goal is to create products, processes, and policies that solve human's greatest design challenges sustainably and in solidarity with all life on earth. Innovators turn to biomimicry with the hope of achieving a unique product that is efficient and effective, and while doing so gain a deep appreciation of the natural world.

LESSON PLAN

Camouflage is an important tool for survival on earth. Both predators and prey animals use camouflage to their advantage. Predators blend in with the background so their prey won't see them approaching until it's too late. Prey animals need to blend in as well, so hungry predators pass right by them.

In the military the use of camouflage patterns is very simple: It is used to hide yourself and your equipment from the enemy. In the past 100 years, camouflage patterning has played a crucial role in most countries' military operations, used in uniforms and helmets, tanks and trucks. Camouflage is a strong example of biomimicry in that it's basic idea comes from the natural adaptations that let animals, insects and sea creatures blend in with their environment for survival.

Andy Warhol (1928-1987), a famous Pop Artist was inspired by the idea of camouflage and began a series of paintings using the patterning in bright bold colors in 1986. Warhol was intrigued by the all-over repetitive pattern which resembled an abstract expressionist painting. Even though camouflage is specifically designed to blend into its environment, Andy Warhol added the artistic element of wild colors that stood out to the viewer. These ideas involving camouflage patterning and bright colors will be used in this biomimicry art project.

Examples of camouflage in nature: (Try to spot the animals)

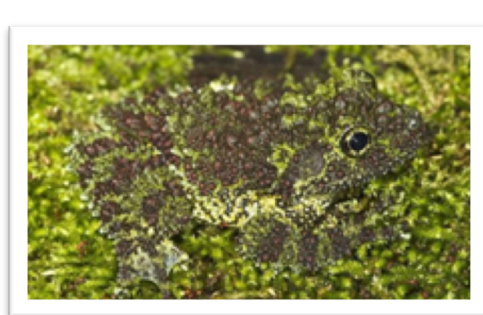
Butterfly



Rabbit



Frog



Examples of camouflage patterning used by humans:

Military



Fishing



Fashion



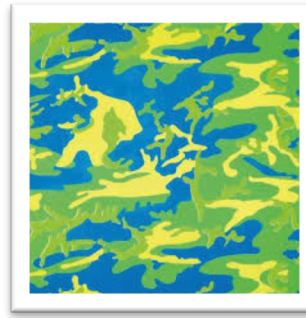
Nature Photography



ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM

LESSON PLAN

Examples of Andy Warhol's *Camouflage Series, 1986*:



ART PROJECT KEY TERMS:

Camouflage is a way to hide or disguise the presence of; the act, means or result of obscuring things to make them blend in with their surroundings.

Pop Art is an art based on modern popular culture and the mass media, especially as a critical or ironic comment on traditional fine art values.

Abstract Expressionist Art is an artistic movement of the mid-20th century comprising diverse styles and techniques and emphasizing especially an artist's liberty to convey attitudes and emotions through nontraditional and usually nonrepresentational means often characterized by gestural brush-strokes or mark-making, and the impression of spontaneity.

Contrast is the difference created using art elements such as values, colors, shapes, etc.

Free-form is something that does not conform to a regular or formal structure or shape.

ART MAKING PROCESS:

STEP 1:

To begin the art project, start with your white cardstock and fold it in half lengthwise and then fold it in half again. Open up the folded paper and you will see 4 rectangles (Fig.1). You will cut along these folded lines to end up with 4 equal sized rectangles (Fig.2).

STEP 2:

Take one of your rectangles and using your pencil draw several curving lines on your paper creating free-form shapes like the ones you see in Andy Warhol's artwork (Fig.3). As the artist you will have several choices to make: large shapes or small? Overlapping or next to each other? Curvy lines or lines with angles? (You will do 4 different drawings so you can try different ideas on each one if you choose to.)

STEP 3:

Once you are satisfied with the lines you have drawn, use your Crayola markers to add bold, contrasting colors to your artwork covering the whole paper in color (Fig.4). You might contrast dark and light colors or cool blues

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and fiery reds, bright pinks with deep greens.

STEP 4:

After you finish the first rectangle continue onto the next one, repeat steps 3 & 4 and complete all 4 rectangles (Fig.5). Have fun using as many colors as you have available!

- Option: Consider how each of your artworks should be seen- horizontal or vertical? Tape all 4 artworks onto your wall as if they are mounted on a gallery wall (Fig.6).

POST PROMPT QUESTIONS (reflect and share):

1. When you line up your artworks what do you see that's similar between them? What is different?
2. What did you think of using ideas from nature and ideas from art history to create your own artwork? How else could you combine these to create more art?
3. Use your imagination to think of scenes and animals that would use the camouflage you created- maybe brightly colored birds in a flower forest? Or aliens on a different planet?

ART PROJECT STEP BY STEP EXAMPLE:



FIG. 1

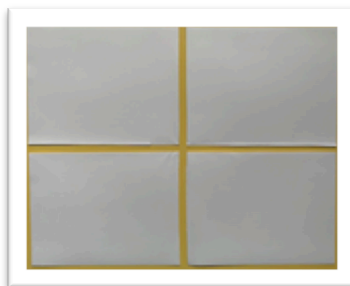


FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4



FIG. 5

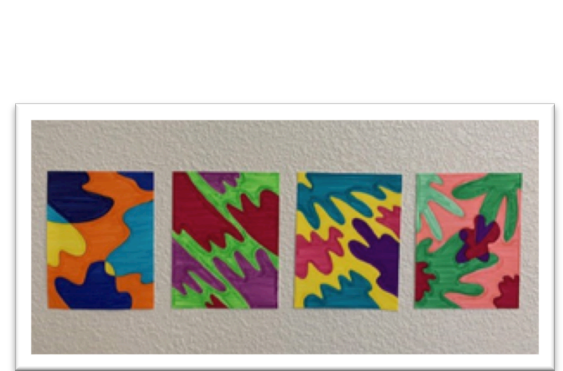


FIG. 6