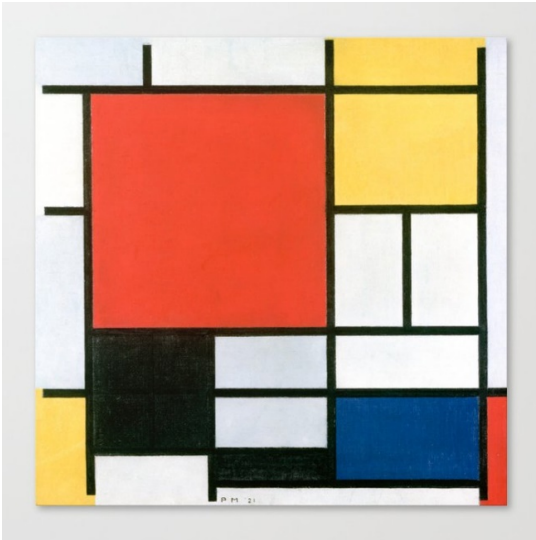


LESSON PLAN

AT-HOME ART PROJECT: Mondrian Zoo **INSTRUCTIONS**



Piet Mondrian
Composition with Large Red Plane, Yellow, Black, Grey and Blue, 1921
Oil on canvas



INSPIRATION ARTIST

Piet Mondrian was a Dutch painter born in the Netherlands, in 1872. His early works represented the world he saw around him. They were paintings of Holland's landscapes including fields, cows, and windmills.

His style began to change in 1911 with his discovery of Cubism. He began creating abstract images that were dominated by geometric shapes and primary colors. Mondrian was best known for his 1920's works of art that feature only horizontal and vertical lines along with black and primary colors. These pieces reflect his belief that objects must be simplified down to their basic elements to reveal their energy and balance. He consistently eliminated "nonessentials" in his artwork, focusing on "basic forms of beauty."

Piet Mondrian died in New York City on Feb. 1, 1944. His paintings became so famous in the decades that followed that other painters, advertisers, architects, graphic designers, and even high fashion clothing designers around the world copied his distinctive style.

MATERIALS NEEDED FROM HOME:

- White Paper (any size)
- Ruler or Straight Edge
- Pencil
- Eraser

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- Black, Red, Yellow and Blue Colored Markers or Colored Pencils

ART PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Participants will choose a zoo animal and create a work of art incorporating Mondrian's neoplastic style... artists will possibly create many and have their own Mondrian Zoo!

PROMPT QUESTIONS:

- What is your favorite animal at the zoo?
- Use describing words and talk about what your animal looks like. What shapes do you see?
- Have you ever seen Piet Mondrian's artwork before?
- What do you notice about it?

ART MAKING PROCESS:

Step 1:

- Imagine if you were visiting the zoo, what animals might you see there? What would be your favorite animal be to look at? Why? Think about the shape of your animal. Use your artist imagination and picture the outlines of your animal.

Step 2:

- Begin with your white paper, pencil, and eraser. Draw your zoo animal filling the paper to make it as large as possible. You are creating a simple line drawing of your animal, just an outline showing any important details (eyes, nose, wings, mouth, beak, arms, tails etc.). Leave the interior of your animal as open, or blank, as possible. Do not add any shadowing or texture elements. It is OK if your animal is disproportioned or does not look realistic. (Fig. 1) (See zoo animal inspiration below if needed.)

Step 3:

- Use your black marker to go over the penciled lines of your zoo animal. (Fig. 2)

Step 4:

- Use your ruler and your pencil to draw various sized squares and rectangles within the shape of your zoo animal. Consider the placement and size of each shape you are creating. They can be as big or small as you like. TIP: Be sure to keep your ruler *parallel* to the edge of your paper; so your horizontal lines are straight with the edges at the top and bottom of your paper, and your vertical lines are straight with the edges at the right and left side of your paper. (Fig. 3)

Step 5:

- Still using your ruler, use your black marker to create thick lines over your straight pencil lines. Go over your lines a couple of times to make them thick. (Fig. 4)

Step 6:

- Use your red, yellow, blue and black markers to fill in various squares and rectangles with solid color. Think about creating balance in the design when using the colors. Remember to leave several spaces white. When you are satisfied with the Mondrian look in your zoo animal, your artwork is complete! (Fig. 5)

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POST PROJECT PROMPT QUESTIONS:

- What do you like best about your artwork?
- What does your Mondrian zoo animal make you think about?
- What other animals would be fun to create in this style?
- What did you learn from creating this work of art?

EXTRA FUN: Consider making several zoo animals in this style, tape them up around your room, or in your window, and create your own at-home Mondrian Zoo! Pretend you are a zookeeper and give a tour of your zoo telling facts and details about each of your animals!

ART PROJECT STEP-BY-STEP EXAMPLE:



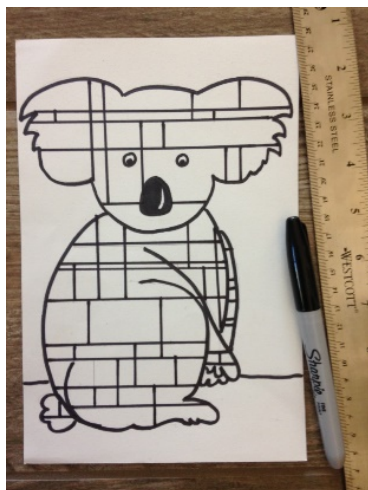
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2.



3.



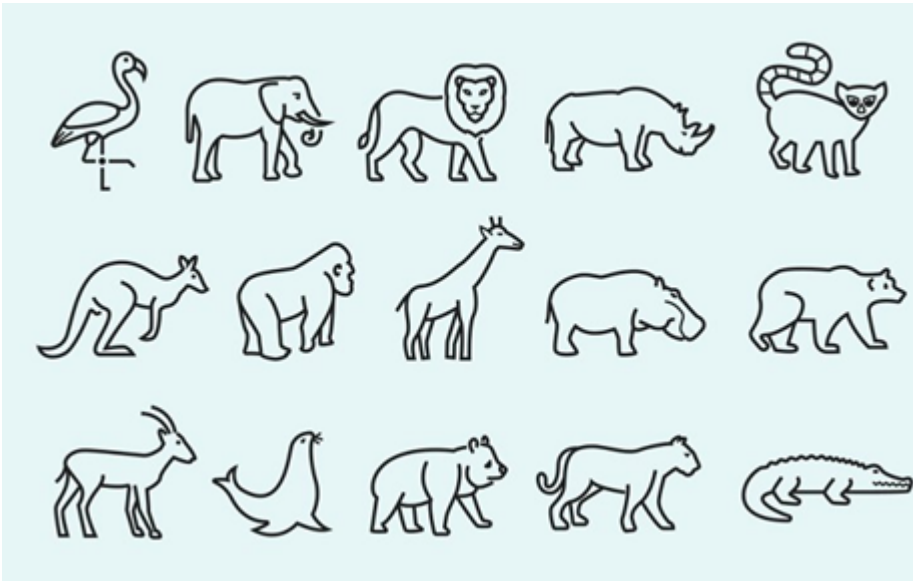
4.



5.

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ZOO ANIMAL INSPIRATION:



- Consider looking up zoo animals online or in books to see more of a variety.
- Option: Search for free printable zoo animal line drawings or coloring pages online to print out, if needed as a starting point for young artists.

RESOURCES:

<https://www.guggenheim.org/artwork/artist/piet-mondrian>

<https://www.piet-mondrian.org/>