Mastering Pointillism: The Art of Tiny Dots

Learning objective: I can use the Pointillism technique to create an image with optical colour mixing.

About 45 minutes. Grown-up tip: Encourage your child to be patient, as Pointillism requires many dots to build up the final image.

Pointillism is a technique developed by Georges Seurat where small, distinct dots of colour are applied in patterns to form an image. From a distance, your eyes blend the dots together to create new colours. For this activity, use felt-tip pens or fine-liner markers. Do not use long lines; instead, tap your pen tip lightly against the paper to create thousands of small, separate dots. Example: To make 'green' grass without using a green pen, make a pattern of overlapping blue dots and yellow dots.

Draw: Create a landscape of a local UK scene, such as a garden with a robin sitting on an oak tree branch or a seaside view. Use only the Pointillism technique. Fill the entire page with dots. Ensure the sky has lighter spacing between dots to show distance, while the objects in the foreground have a higher density of dots to show detail and depth.

Label words: Pointillism · Optical Mixing · Contrast · Texture · Foreground

Steps:

1. Explain why you should use a high density of dots in the foreground of your drawing compared to the background.

2. If you want to create a sense of 'shadow' on an object using only dots, how should you adjust your spacing?

3. Label three areas of your drawing where you have used complementary colours to create a vibrant effect.

4. Name one primary colour and the two dots you could use to create a 'secondary' colour effect through optical mixing.

5. Why is it important to keep the dots distinct rather than smudging them together?



I did it! Name: _____ Date: _____

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