

**Pre-Visit Lessons for
Third Grade
Fresno Art Museum Field Trip
In support of
Kennedy Center's *Any Given Child* Program with FUSD**

The lessons that follow should be implemented BEFORE your third grade class visits the Fresno Art Museum.

The lessons only require plain white paper (8 ½" x 11" copy paper will work), a ruler (for the Mondrian lesson), and markers in primary and secondary colors. If black fine-line Sharpies are available, that would be great, but not required – any black pen or marker can work. You can spend anywhere from a half hour to an hour on each lesson.

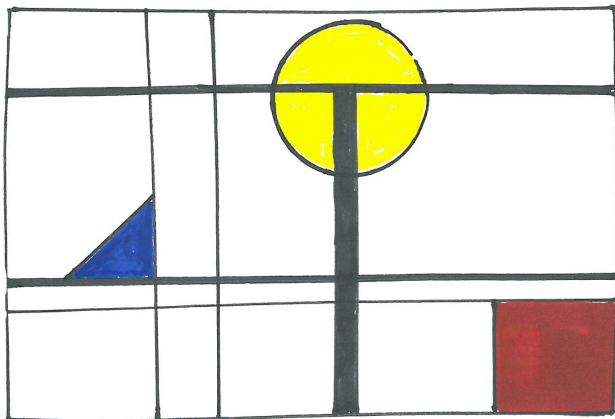
Learning about LINE, SHAPE, AND COLOR

Before coming to the Museum, students should learn some very basic information about line, shape, and color. These three elements of art will be discussed further and the concepts reinforced when they visit the Museum.

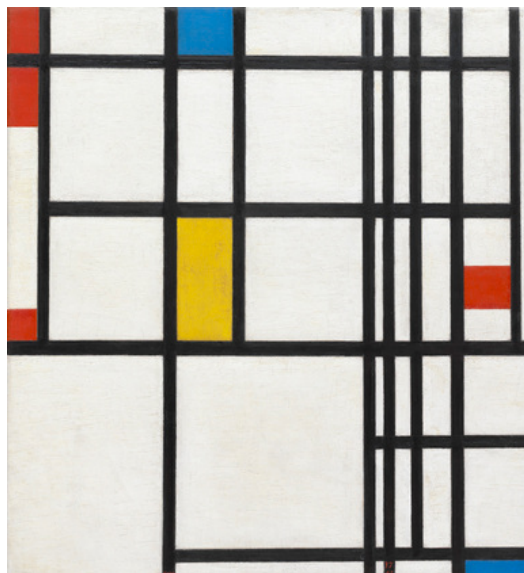
Geometric Shapes/Line/Primary Colors

You may show the students a Mondrian before doing this segment of the lesson and talk about the different kinds of lines, shapes, and colors.

Using only a black marker or Sharpie, have students draw a rectangle, explaining how it is different than a square. (Students may use a ruler and practice using measurement.) You can explain that a rectangle is made up of two horizontal lines and two vertical lines, parallel to each other. You can demonstrate this on a board, talking about the lines and their relationships to each other. You can introduce the concept of perpendicular by drawing a "T" inside the rectangle. Then ask students to draw two more vertical and two more horizontal lines anywhere within the rectangle, making at least one line thick and one line thin. Have students draw one circle, one square, and one triangle somewhere within their rectangle. The students can then color each of those shapes a different color, choosing a marker in a primary color (blue, yellow, and red).



Student Sample



Piet Mondrian, *Composition in Red, Blue, and Yellow* (1937-42)

Note: When lines connect they form a shape. Geometric shapes are geometric figures that can be described with mathematics and that are used in geometry.

For Mondrian images, or more info on this artist, go to:

- <http://pietmondrian.co.uk/>
- <http://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/piet-mondrian-1651>

Organic Shapes/Line/Secondary Colors



Henri Matisse, *Sorrow of the King*, 1952

You may show students work by Henri Matisse and identify the organic shapes in his artwork.

Organic shapes are shapes that are not geometric. They are free-form, unpredictable, and flowing.

Have students draw any free-form shape on the page with a black Sharpie or marker— it can be a curvy shape, a spiral shape, a leaf-shape, a blob, etc. (They can put away their rulers.) The shape can have all curves and no angles, or it can have angles and curves combined. It can be

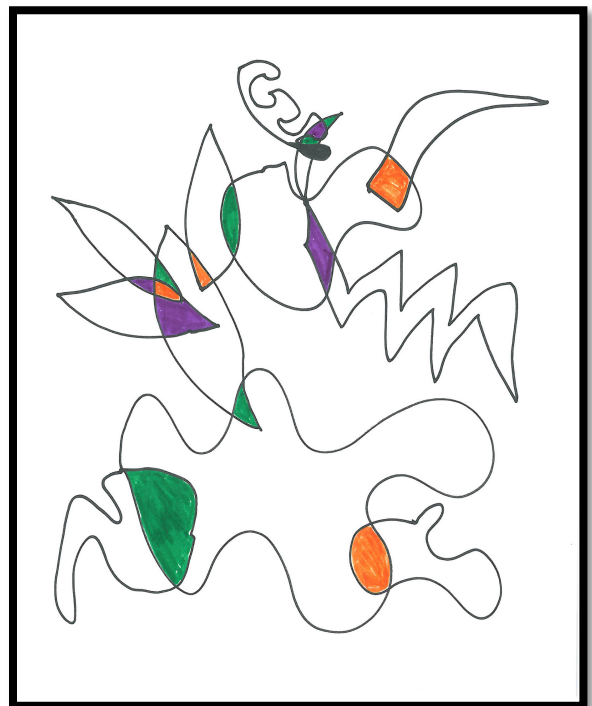
made out of zigzags lines. Lines can be parallel or perpendicular or diagonal to each other, thick or thin. Have students draw more organic shapes and be sure that they overlap each other. When complete, have students add color spots using secondary colors only (orange, green, and purple) to the areas that have overlapped. The other areas can remain white.

Note: If the lines do not connect, a shape has not been formed.

To learn more about Henri Matisse and to find images, go to:

- <http://www.henri-matisse.net/paintingssectionfour.html>
- <http://www.henri-matisse.net/biography.html>

Note that Matisse's later work is the most relevant to this lesson.



Student Sample

COLOR

These color charts are included to assist you in explaining the basics of color theory to your students. While 3rd grade students will focus mainly on primary and secondary colors, a color wheel that includes the tertiary colors is also provided.

The secondary colors are created by mixing two primary colors together. The tertiary colors are what happens when you mix the primary and secondary on either side of the tertiary together.

