

2nd Grade LWSD Art Docent Project: Together Tree

Focus on Collaborative Art

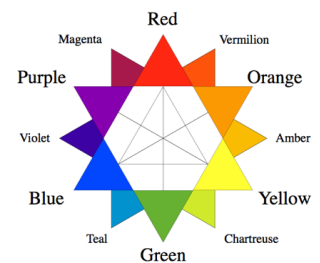
Objective: To create a large tree made of bright leaves painted in complementary colors.

Artistic Influence: Mumbai ceramic artist, Rekha Goyal



Materials:

- **Stiff paper** (9"x 12" white sulphite paper in 90# works well)
- **Oil pastels – including primary and secondary colors at the least, preferably including tertiary colors also** (see color star to the right)
- **Scissors**
- **Glue stick or double-sided tape**
- **Baby wipes**



Definition of Mural: A large picture painted or affixed directly on a wall or ceiling

Instructions and notes:

1. This lesson requires some preparation ahead of the lesson.
 - Page 3 of this document contains an image of three leaves. Each student will need to have this image printed on a sheet of stiff 9"x 12" paper (preferably 90# white sulphite paper). These leaves should **not** be cut out before the lesson. It is easier for the students to color them when they are left together on the same page.
 - The tree trunk and branches in the style of your choice must be affixed to the wall before the lesson. See page 4 of this document to get some ideas about how to build your tree.
2. Spend a bit of time on slides 12 and 13 discussing complementary color to make sure that students understand the concept.
3. This lesson should not take the whole hour for coloring and cutting. This is by design, because part of the art project is having the students work together to glue their leaves onto their "together tree." If the tree branches are too high for students to reach, an adult may help them. Just have the student explain clearly where s/he would like each leaf to go.
4. This tree can be a great community-building project. If the teacher likes the idea, the tree can be built in the classroom where students can continue to add new leaves for months. It can serve as a nice way to welcome new students as well, inviting them to paint their own leaves to add to the rest. You may even want to work with all 2nd-grade classes to make a very large together tree for all of 2nd grade.
5. Invite students to talk about their leaves, if time allows.
6. Distribute parent information page for students to take home, and print an extra page to post on your bulletin board with the finished art. See following page.
7. Please complete the brief [LWSD Art Docent Program Feedback Survey](#) for this lesson.
8. Thank you for supporting our elementary students' visual arts education.

LWSD Art Docent Project: Together Tree

The goal of this 2nd grade lesson was to create a community tree mural with leaves from every student while practicing a bit of color theory along the way.



The Tree Mural in Ceramic and Wood, 2015, Rekha Goyal

WA State Visual Arts Standard

Categorize artwork based on a theme or concept for an exhibit. (VA: Pr4.1.2)

In this art lesson taught by volunteer art docents, students studied color theory and learned about the concept of complementary colors in the traditional RYB (red, yellow, blue) color model. They then colored two or three leaves using oil pastel to add to a classroom tree mural. Like the leaves in Rekha Goyal's tree, the goal was for each leaf to be unique, each one painted in different complementary colors and with a different pattern. Finally, the students all affixed their unique leaves onto the branches of a tree to create an artist mural that would belong to the whole classroom and foster a sense of community.



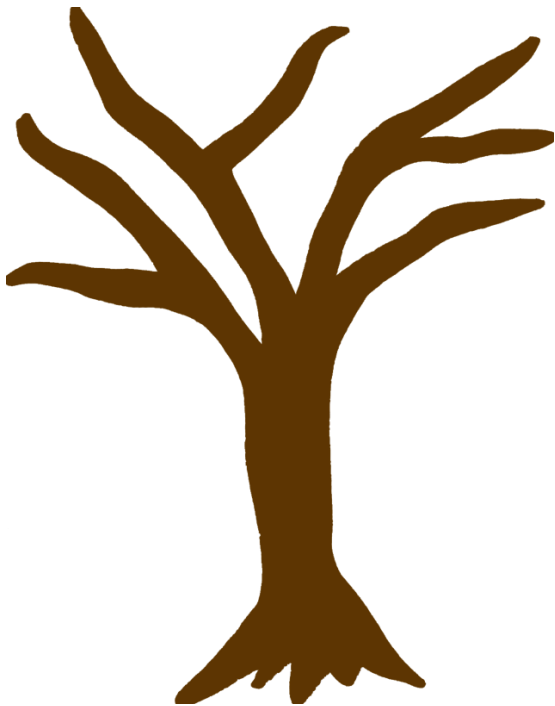
Here are some examples of tree designs to spur your imagination. The tree can be complex or very simple and still be effective. It just needs lots of branches onto which the students can glue their leaves.



This tree takes some time to draw, but since only the contour lines are drawn, it creates an interesting contrast with the bright leaves that are saturated with color.



The 3D look of this tree comes from rolling and crumpling long sheets of butcher paper. The staples aren't too visible with this kind of technique.



This simple tree can be drawn, painted or cut out of brown butcher paper. Again, the plain brown contrasts nicely with the students' brightly colored leaves.



This tree is cut out of large strips of butcher paper and works well for the corner of a room.