



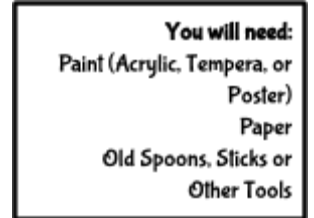
It's a big DEAL!

Daily Elementary Art Lesson

Day 33

Jackson Pollock Action Painting

The elements of art are to art what the ABCs are to reading. [This project uses the elements of COLOR and TEXTURE.](#)



ARTIST Connection: Jackson Pollock (1912–1956) was an American painter and the most famous of the ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM movement. He was known for his “action painting” technique: pouring paint onto the canvas and using the force of his body. [See Pollock’s artwork on the next page!](#)

- Most of his paintings are very large. He would drip, pour, and fling paint using old brushes and other tools, too. On some of his work, you can even see footprints, where he stepped right into the painting.
- When he created his action paintings, he felt he was actually a part of the painting.
- He cared more about expressing his emotions and feelings rather than making a picture look real.



GATHERING YOUR MATERIALS:

Usually when we paint, we use a paintbrush. But what happens when you use a spoon? Or a stick? Look around your house or yard to find interesting things to use instead of a paint brush (make sure you ask an ADULT for permission first!).



Preparing the Paint:

For this project, the paint should be of a thin consistency. You may want to add more water to the paint. Start by adding small amounts until the paint is thin enough to drip; it should be runny but not watery. Choose at least three but not more than five colors.

Preparing Your Workspace:

THIS IS A MESSY PROJECT! Make sure to cover your workspace with newspaper, plastic, or other covering. You should also make sure to wear a paint shirt, apron, or other protective clothing. If it is a nice day, you can paint outside!

The Project:

Dip your tools into the paint and allow the paint to drip off of the tool and onto the paper. You can do this quickly or slowly. Try different movements. What happens when you tap the tool? Or shake it? You can use one color per tool, or one action. It's up to you. The important thing is to not let the tool touch the paper.

PAINTINGS BY Jackson Pollock

BLUE (MOBY DICK): 1943. 18 3/4" x 23 7/8"

Moby Dick is a book by Herman Melville. It is about the adventures of a sailor named Ishmael, and his voyage on the whale ship Pequod with Captain Ahab. Ishmael soon learns that the captain has one goal: to find Moby Dick, a ferocious, white sperm whale. How do you think Pollock told the story in this painting? Could you tell the story of one of your favorite books in a painting?



SHE-WOLF: 1943. 42" X 67"

The she-wolf is a creature from old stories and legends. Do you see her? Hint: her head is pointing to the left, and her nose is close to the border of the painting. Her back is outlined in black.

Try measuring 42 inches tall by 67 inches wide. This is a big painting!

MURAL: 1943. 8 feet by 20 feet (Wow!!)

You can see how big this painting is by the people looking at it. Pollock was asked to create a large painting to hang in a hallway of a person's home. He made room for the painting by tearing down one of his walls in his studio.

The painting is considered one of the most important works of American art. Pollock was called "Action Jackson" because he put his whole body into creating. People who stand next to his paintings say they feel energy coming from them.



UNTITLED 1948-49. 22 3/8" x 30"

Jackson Pollock liked to work from above with the canvas lying flat on the floor. He said, "On the floor I am more at ease, I feel nearer, more a part of the painting since this way I can walk around it, work from the four sides and literally be in the painting."



WHITE LIGHTS: 1954. 48 1/4" X 38 1/4"

Pollock was a risk taker as an artist. He made pictures in a way that had never been done before. He was willing to express the feelings inside of him.