

Grade 4 – Butterfly Mosaic



Community Art

What do you see?



Plate LX from Metamorphosis insectorum Surinamensium, 1705, Maria Sibylla Merian

Artistic Focus: Community Art



Plate LX from Metamorphosis insectorum Surinamensium, 1705, Maria Sibylla Merian

COMMUNITY ART is an artistic activity based in a community setting, emphasizing collaboration.

Today's objectives:

1. For each student to create a portion of an image that will merge with other portions to make a larger, complete whole.
2. To practice accuracy in drawing by using a grid.

WA State Visual Arts Standard

Collaboratively set goals and create artwork that is meaningful and has purpose to the makers. (CA: Cr1.2.4)

Maria Sibylla Merian

- German naturalist and scientific illustrator, one of the first naturalists to observe insects directly.
- Lived 1647-1717.
- From a young age Maria was fascinated by butterflies and moths.
- Considered a leading entomologist of her time.
- She worked hard to investigate insect life cycles in Europe and South America and discovered many new facts about insect life through her studies.
- Her stepfather taught her how to paint in watercolors.
- She had two daughters who also became artists.



Maria Sibylla Merian in
1679 and as depicted on
the 500 DM banknote
(former German currency)

Artwork



Plate VI from Metamorphosis insectorum Surinamensium, 1705, Maria Sibylla Merian

Artwork

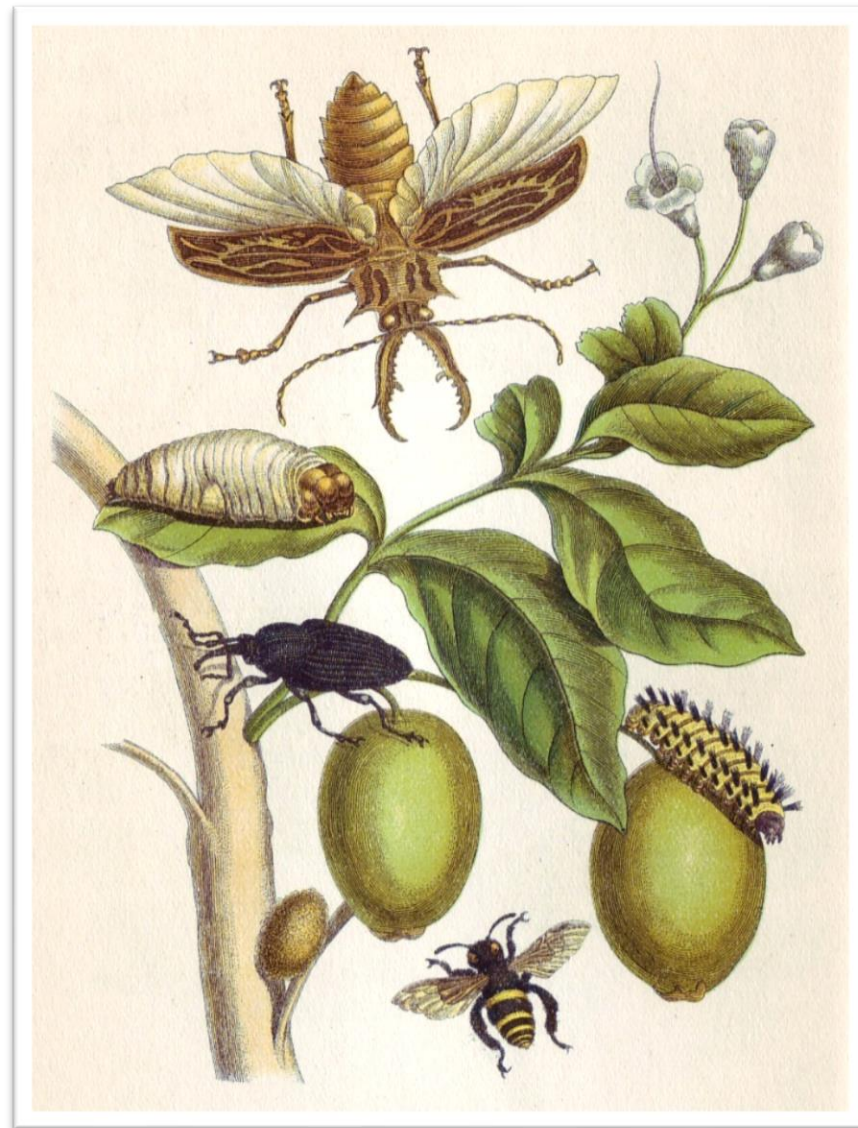
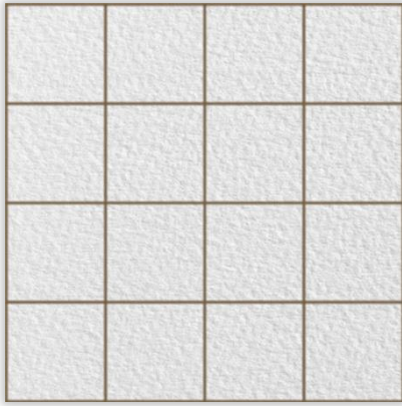


Plate XLVIII from Metamorphosis insectorum Surinamensium, 1705, Maria Sibylla Merian

Materials

Watercolor paper cut to 8"x 8" with a lightly penciled grid as shown



Pencil



Ultra Fine Point Sharpie



Watercolor pencils or cake tray



Paper towel



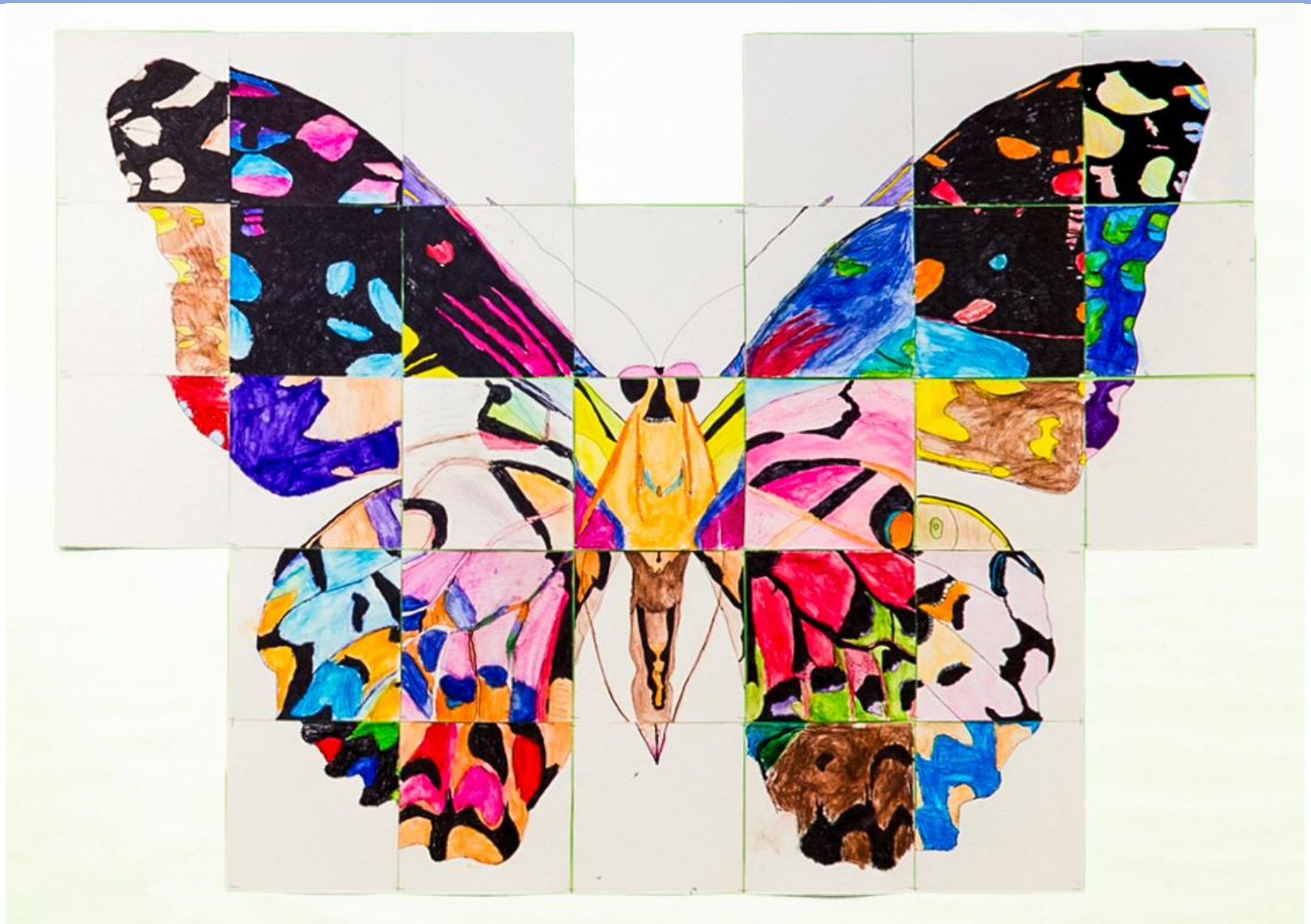
Eraser



Water cup



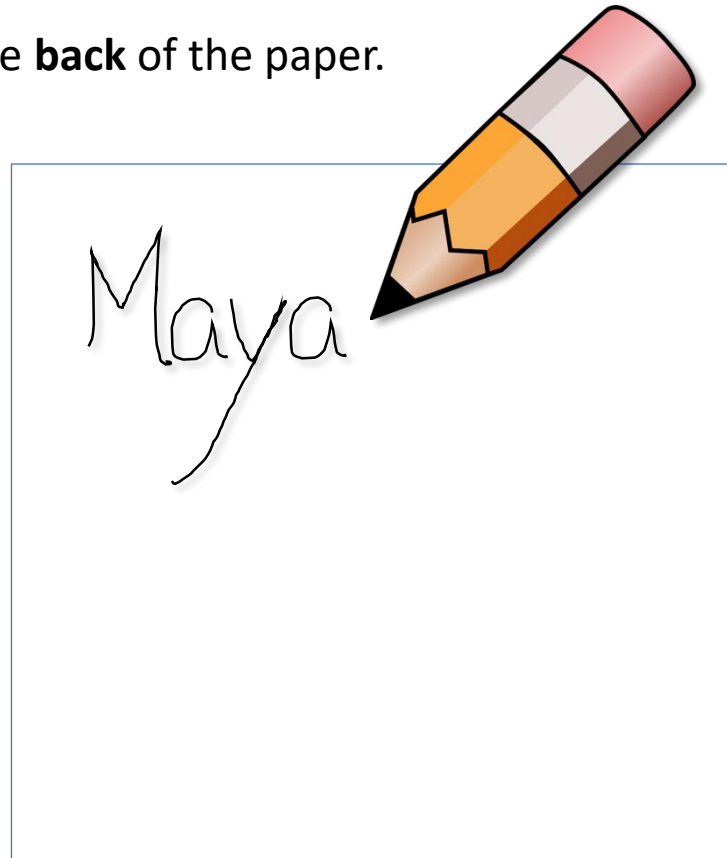
Example of Today's Project



Before You Begin

Note: this lesson was designed as a two-part project. You may complete it in two, separate hour-long sessions on two different days or in one 1½ to 2-hour session.

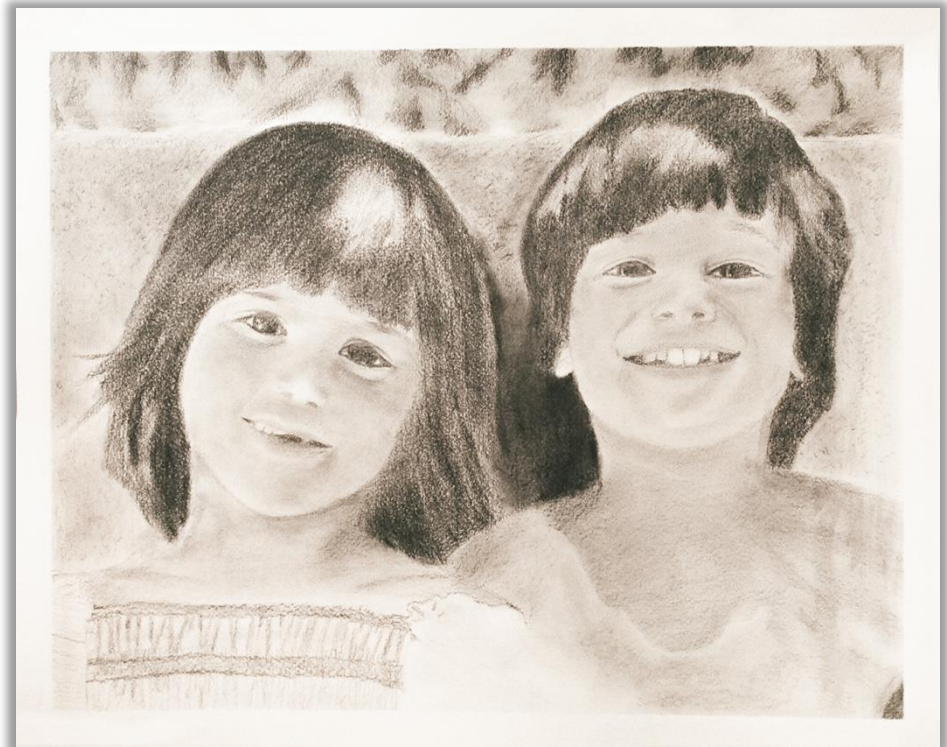
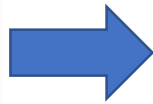
1. Write your **name** in pencil on the **back** of the paper.
2. Flip over your paper.
3. **Roll up your sleeves!**



Technique: Drawing with a Grid

Let's talk about accuracy.

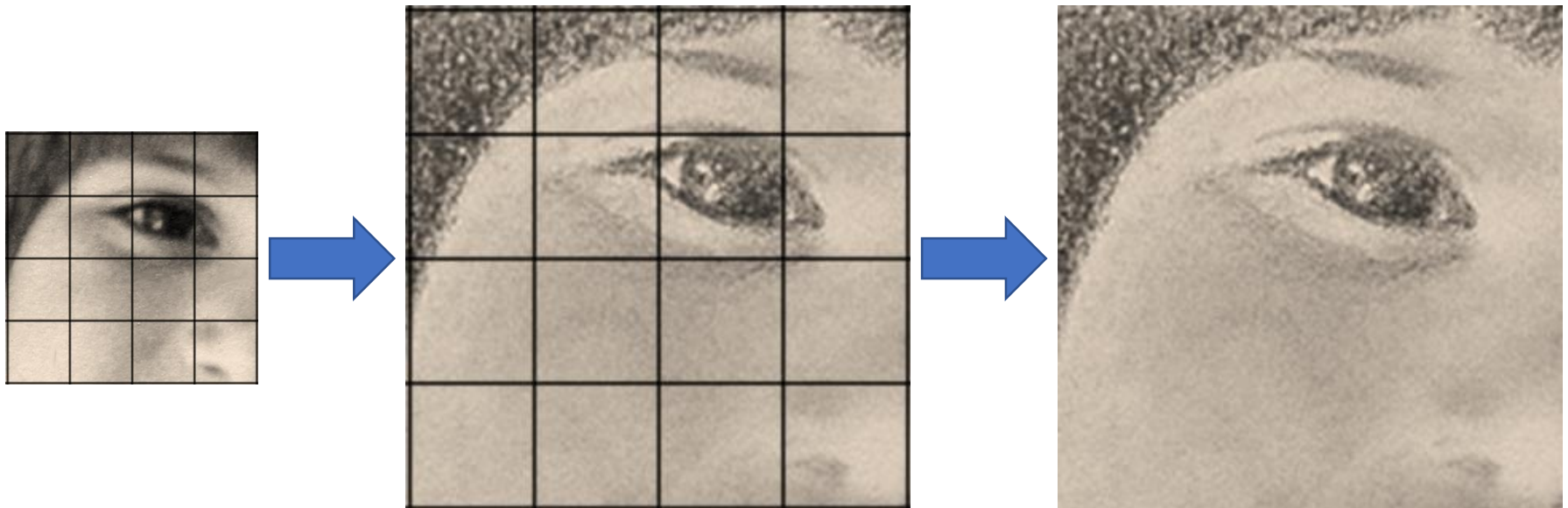
- This small photograph was turned into a much larger drawing by an artist who does not consider herself to be good at drawing.
- How do you think she managed to make an accurate drawing of the two children?



Technique: Drawing with a Grid

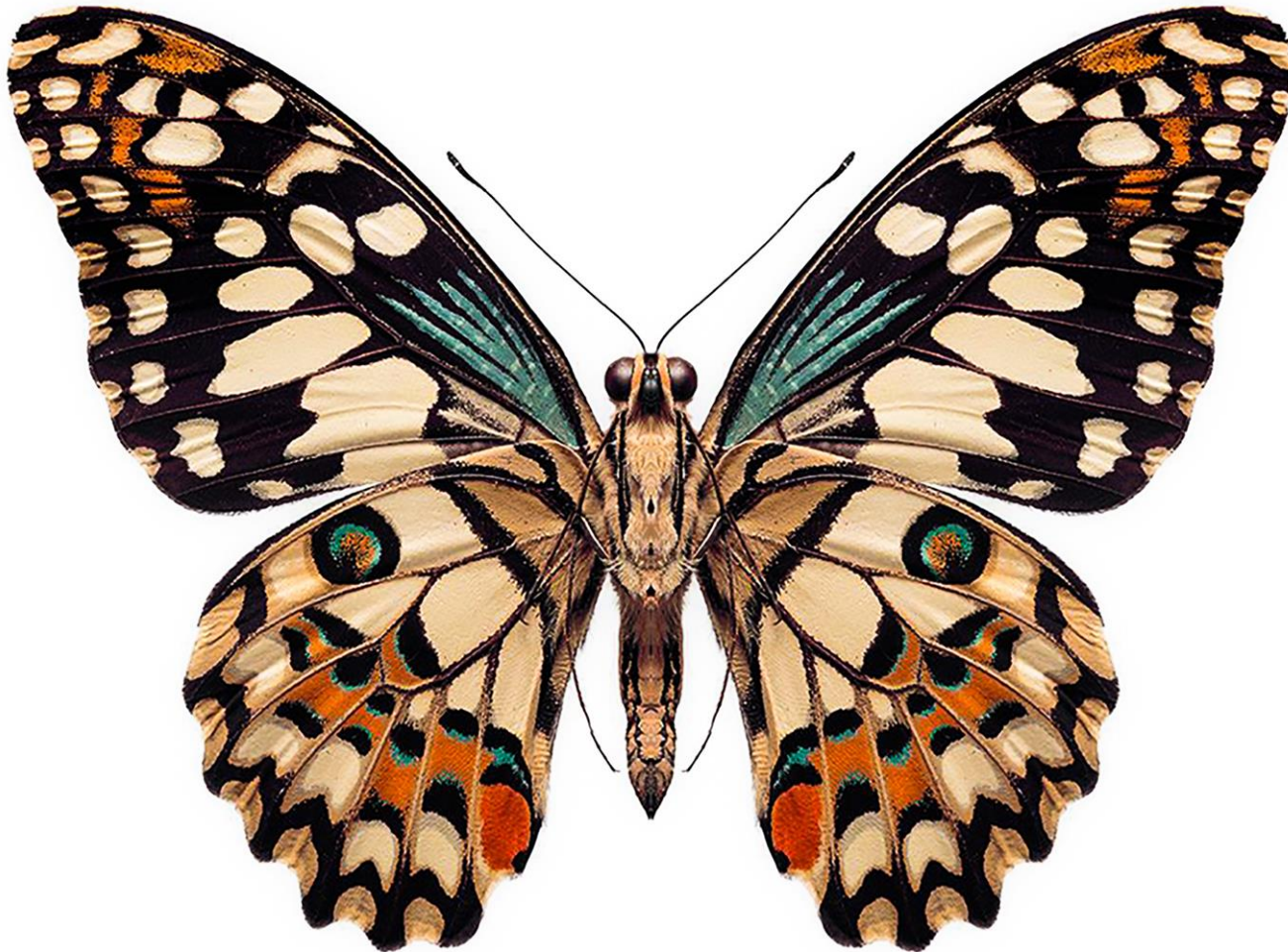
The artist used a grid by:

- Drawing a grid over the photo.
- Lightly drawing a larger version of the same grid on the drawing paper.
- Noticing where every shape and line fit into each small square in the photo and drawing those same shapes, but larger, to fit into the same squares on the paper.
- Carefully erasing the grid lines.



About This Lesson

- We will work together to create a butterfly that is just over one yard tall.
- Start by observing the butterfly image on the next slide. Notice the details.



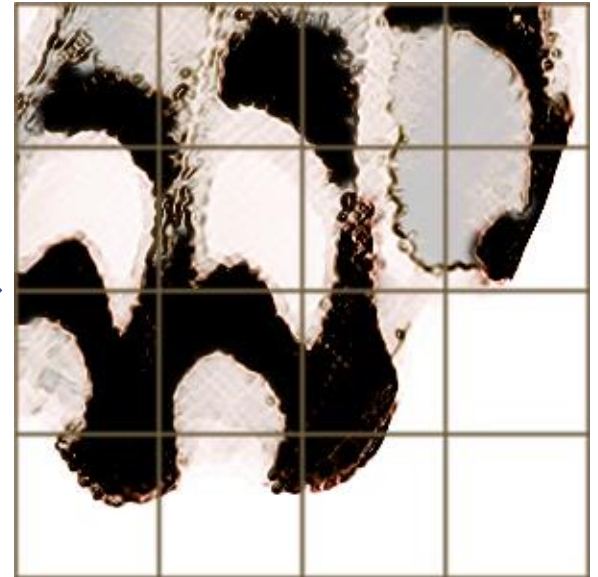
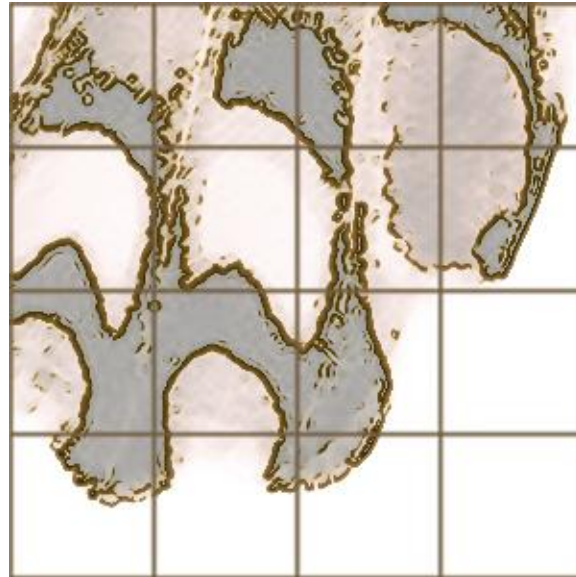
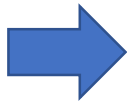
Collaborative Art: A Team Effort

- Each of you will receive at least one small, square image of the butterfly with an overlaid grid.
- If your square is an edge piece, you may be given two squares, so that everyone has about the same amount of work to do.
- Observe how the lines and shapes on your square fit into the grid.



Steps 1 & 2

- Do your best to copy the same lines and shapes into the grid on your piece of watercolor paper.
- Once you have drawn your piece of butterfly in pencil, use an Ultra Fine Point Sharpie to go over the places that look black in the original, printed image.



Step 3

- Once you finished with the Sharpie, use a good, clean eraser to erase the grid lines.
- Please erase gently, to avoid tearing the paper.



Step 4 & 5

- Now that the gridlines are gone, it is time to color your butterfly segments with watercolor pencils.
- After coloring your portion of the butterfly, use a small amount of water on a paintbrush to spread the pigment, rinsing your brush between colors.
- (It is possible to use watercolor paint trays instead of the pencils, but watercolor pencils make it easier to be more exact with where you lay in color.)
- You may decide as a class whether you want to choose any color you would like or stay true to the square samples.



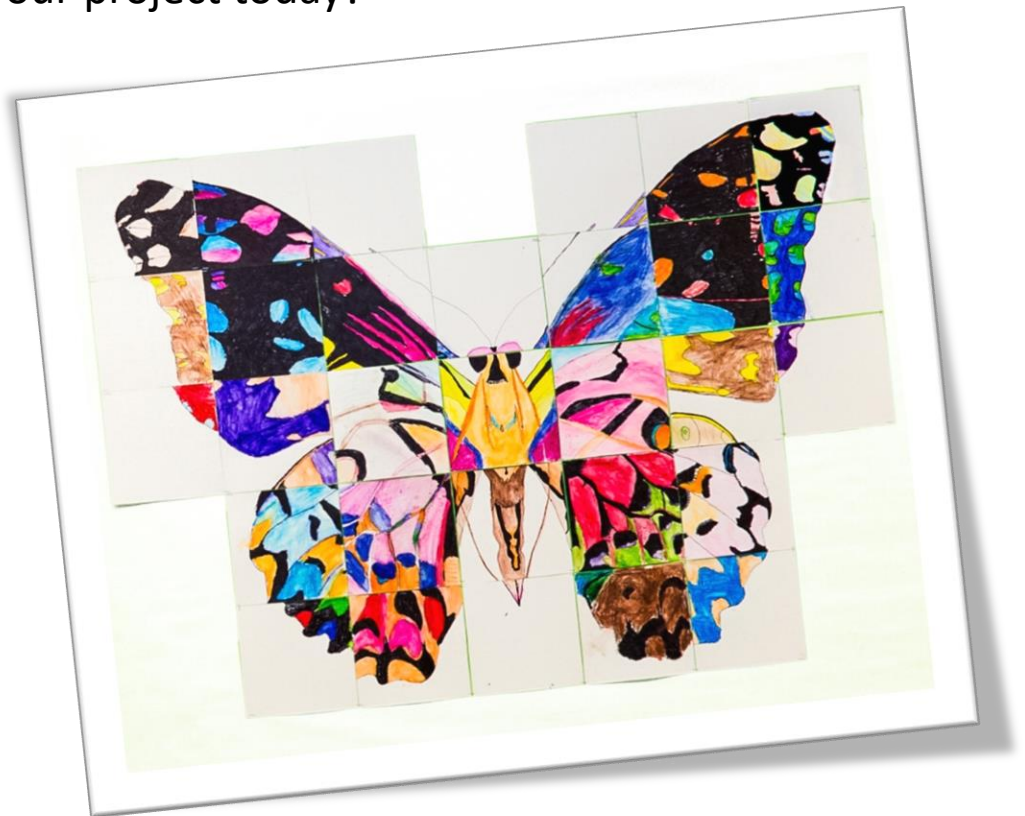
Step 6

- The final step, once the paint has dried, is for the class to put your butterfly together like a large puzzle.
- You may tape the back of your squares together or simply pin them to a bulletin board, making sure that you have enough room to staple or pin up 40 inches by 56 inches worth of your square segments.



Reflection

- What did you think of using a grid to improve drawing accuracy?
- Do you think that using a grid was helpful? Why or why not?
- As you look around the room, do you think that all of the portions you and your classmates painted will fit together well?
- What was your favorite part of our project today?



Credits

1. About Maria Sibylla Merian https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maria_Sibylla_Merian
2. Pencil drawing of Alfredo and Alessandra done by Audrey Guidi c. 2003
3. Image of half of a butterfly found on Pinterest.
4. Original LWSD sample art, used with permission.