

40

# Sure-Fire Art Lessons

Presenting a  
selection of practical  
user-friendly art ideas  
for the primary classroom.

Includes teachers'  
notes & lesson plans.

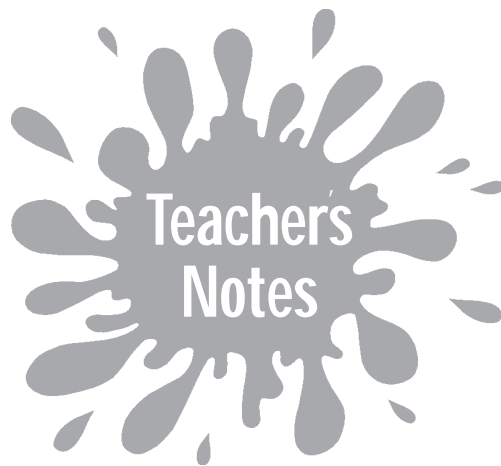
contains  
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Templates



BY  
Paul Larkin



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40 Sure-Fire Art Lessons has been written with one thing in mind: to provide teachers with some great art ideas that all children can do.

Hopefully the activities will provide a sense of accomplishment for students and add to the aesthetics of the classroom.

This book is intended to be a resource – not a curriculum to be followed in a certain order and at a prescribed level. The activities can be adapted to suit the class but should always try to provide children with a fair degree of satisfaction. There are suggestions for extension activities and these can be used at the discretion of the teacher.

A lot of the stress and headaches of setting up and cleaning up can be avoided by making sure in advance that you have all the materials/resources you need. It may be useful to organise 3-4 children to have specific clean up jobs.

It's also a good idea to have a follow up activity for fast finishers (not necessarily an art activity).

When displays are changed in the classroom, keep one or two samples for later in the year and plan an art exhibition. This could be for your room only, or organise a whole school exhibition (possibly a fundraiser). This is very simple to organise but is excellent for marketing your school in the community and showing work to parents.

One sure-fire fact is that with art you can't really go wrong. Everyone can be good at it – I should know because I wasn't very good at it in primary school.

**Paul Larkin**

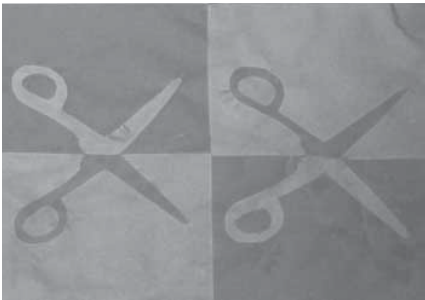




Use pictures and shapes from around the classroom!



# Positive/Negative Pictures



## Materials

- Brenex squares or coloured A4 paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pencils

**Step 1** Have two contrasting colour sheets of Brenex or A4 paper ready. One is for the base. Fold the other piece in half.

**Step 2** Students draw a simple picture or shape but only draw half the picture. The middle of the picture should lie along the fold. Do this on the folded side.

**Demonstrate!** Select a simple shape and demonstrate how to draw only half of the shape on the folded side of the coloured square.

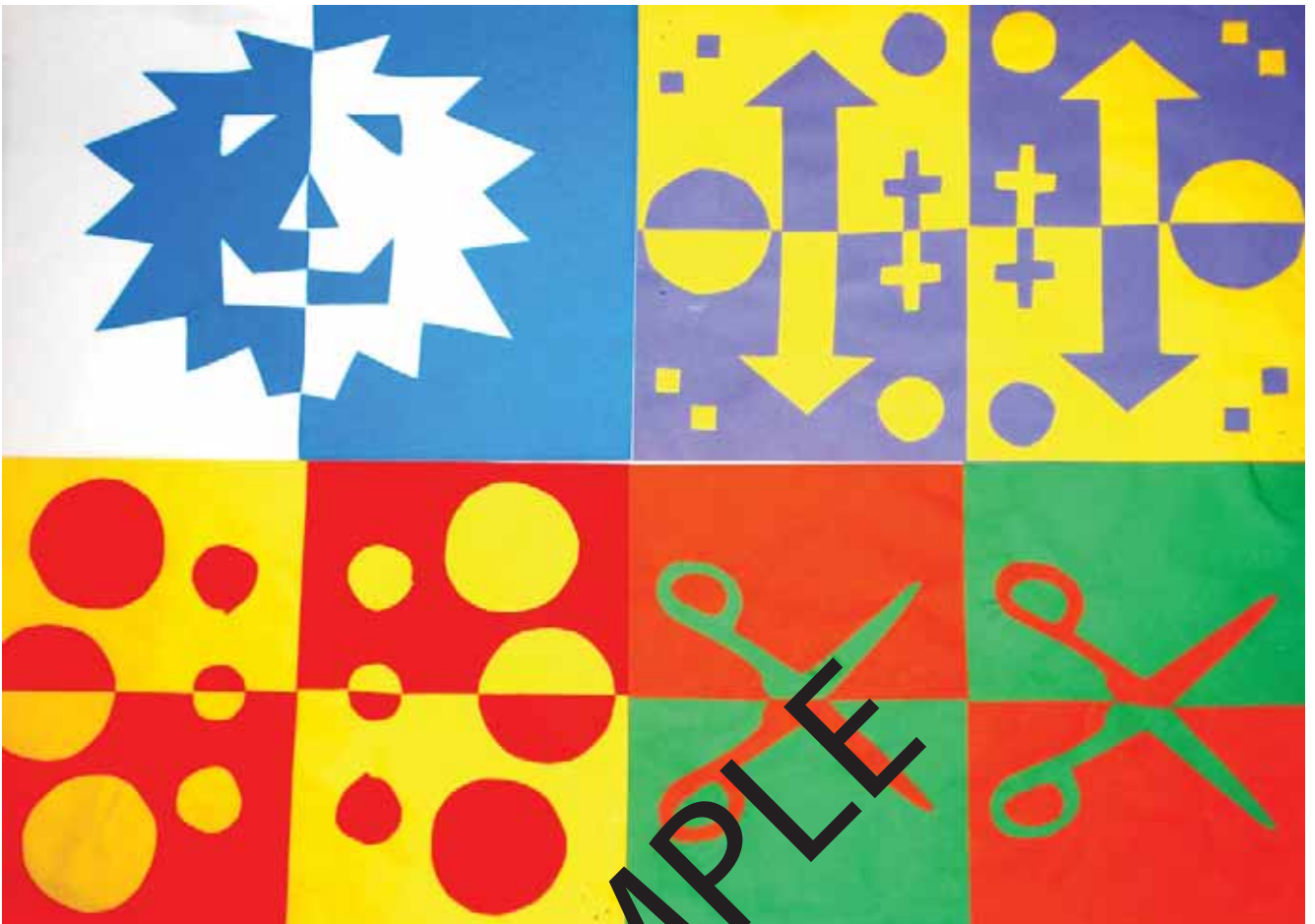
**Step 3** Cut out the picture or shape whilst the paper is still folded then cut along the fold lines of the piece and the outside paper.

**Step 4** The cut out section is glued onto the base paper on one side with the other pieces glued opposite. This creates a positive/negative effect. There will also be another set of cut out pieces to glue on to another base if desired.

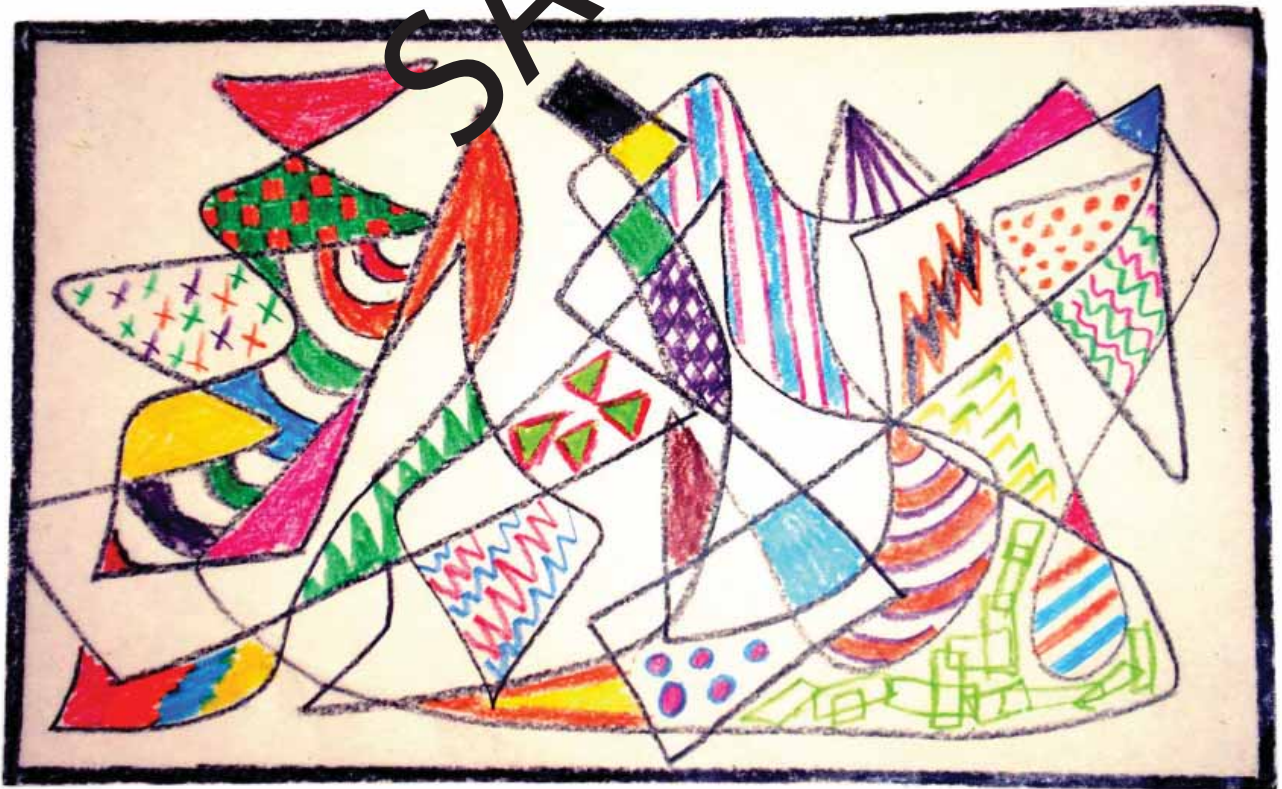
## Extension Activity

This activity becomes more complicated if the initial drawing has more components to it, e.g. a face or mask with nose, eyes and a mouth or multiple shapes (see *Activity 1 example, Page 7*).

Another option is to go back to **Step 1** where the paper is folded in half. If the paper is folded in half again there will be room on the base piece for two completed pictures.

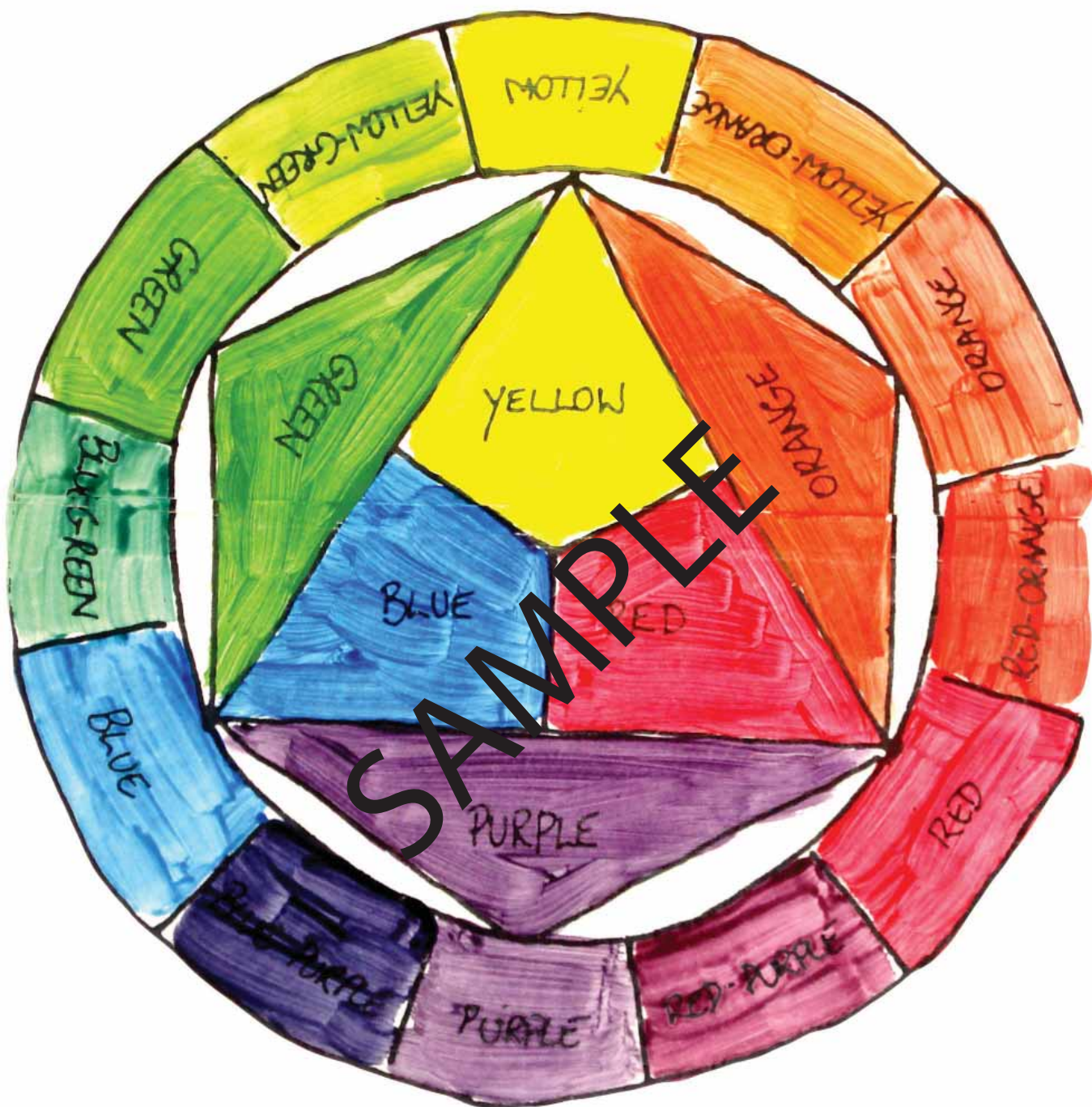


**Activity 1: Positive/Negative Pictures** (See page 6)

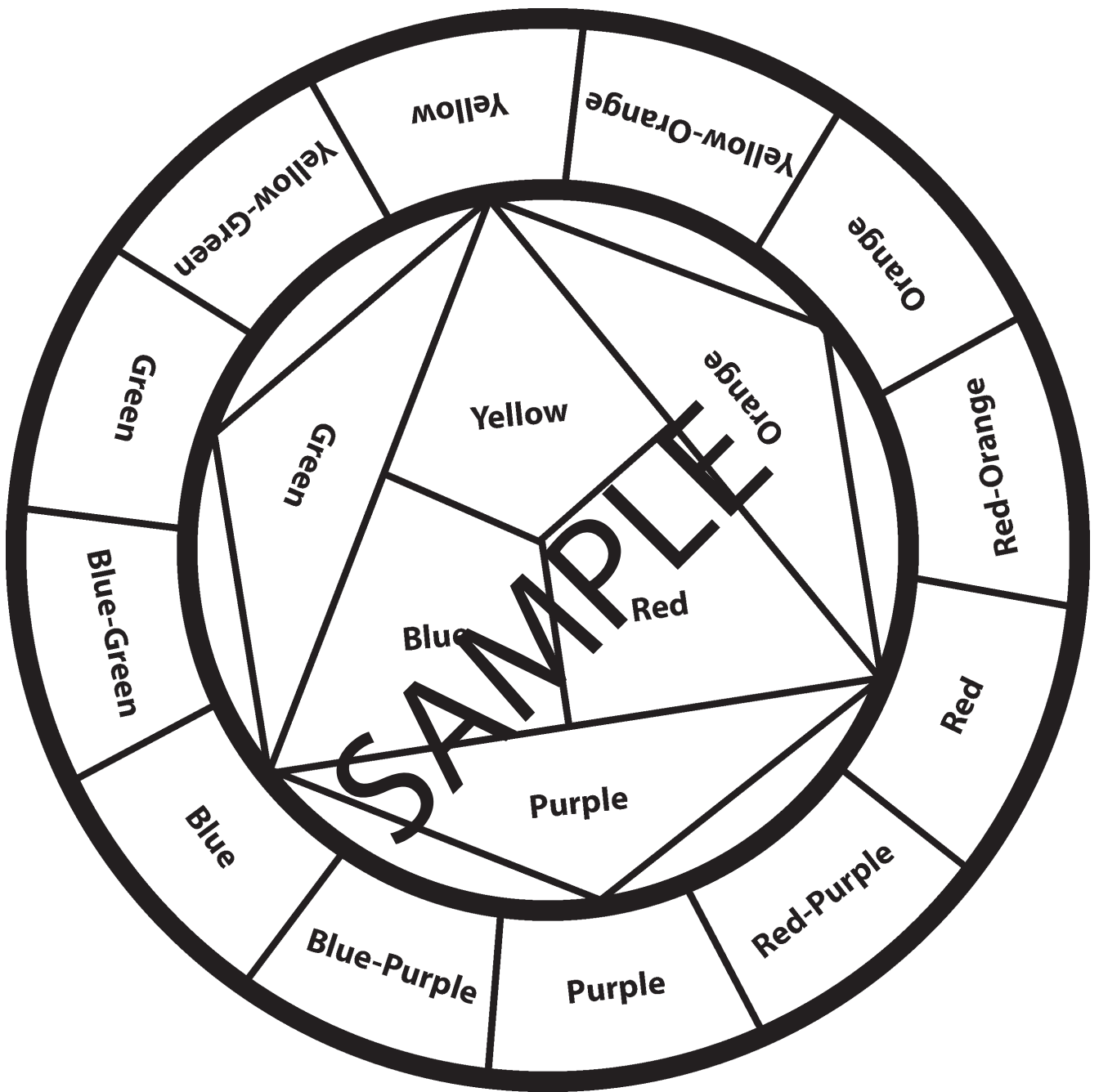


**Activity 2: Taking a Line for a Walk** (See page 8)





**Activity 5: Colour Mixing** (See page 13)

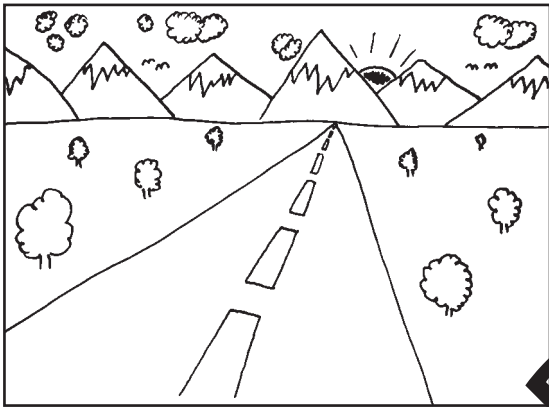




This activity uses  
the vanishing point.



# Simple Perspective



## Materials

- Paper
- Pencil
- Colouring pencils

**Demonstrate the steps by copying the example onto the board as you explain.** Explain that in drawing, this **point** is known as the **vanishing point**.

**Step 1** Students have paper set to landscape and draw a horizontal line across the page about 1/3 down the page.

**Step 3** **Centre of road:** Draw offset rectangles getting smaller and closer together as they approach the vanishing point.

**Step 4** Add some simple trees. Draw the trees larger towards the foreground and smaller as they get closer to the horizontal line.

**Step 5** Add mountains, snow, clouds, birds and the sun above the horizontal line.

**Step 6** Add colour with pencils or textas. Children are usually quite impressed with the finished product and enjoy adding the colour stage to their picture.



*Children will want to use a ruler but explain this is not necessary. If the line is not straight it looks more natural.*

**Step 2** **Road:** Draw two diagonal lines starting from a **point\*** on the horizontal line. One line ends near the bottom left corner. The other line ends near the bottom right corner of the page.

## Extension Activity

More complex features can be added such as a wire fence, lamp posts, vehicles and/or people. These take a bit more practice but obviously add to the finished product.

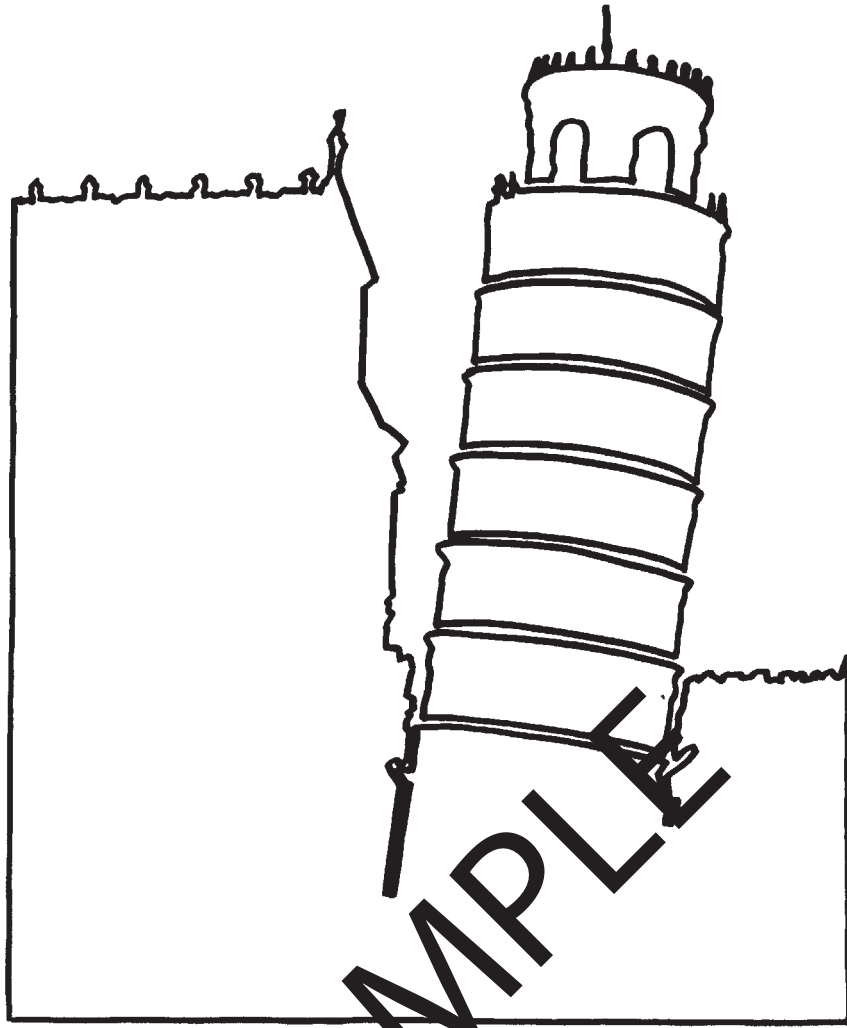




**Activity 14: Shapes Collage** (See page 29)



**Activity 15: Dot Painting** (See page 30)

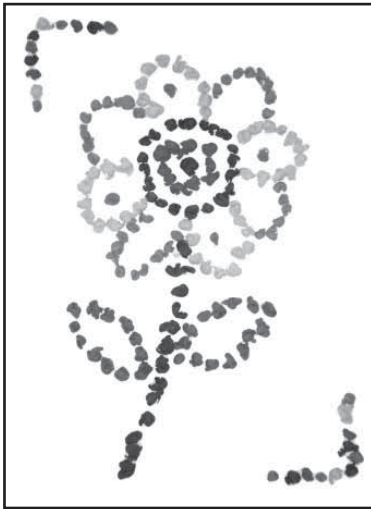




Great crepe paper balls!



# Crepe Paper Design



## Materials

- 1 A4 backing sheet
- 3 cm strips crepe paper in a variety of colours
- Wood glue
- Scissors

\* See the example on Page 51

Brainstorm ideas and sketch a few simple outlines on the board, e.g. boat, yacht, car, building, flower, plane, person.

**Step 1** Students lightly draw a simple design on an A4 backing sheet. *Make sure there are no lines too close together.*

**Step 2** Cut crepe paper strips into 3 cm pieces. Each student should end up with a variety of coloured crepe sections 3 cm x 3 cm.

**Demonstrate!**

*Demonstrate how to cut and roll sections of crepe paper (Steps 3 and 4).*

**Step 3** Roll crepe paper pieces into small, tight balls.

**Step 4** Working in small sections at a time apply the wood glue directly to the backing sheet.

Place crepe paper balls on the glue, allowing a small gap between each ball.



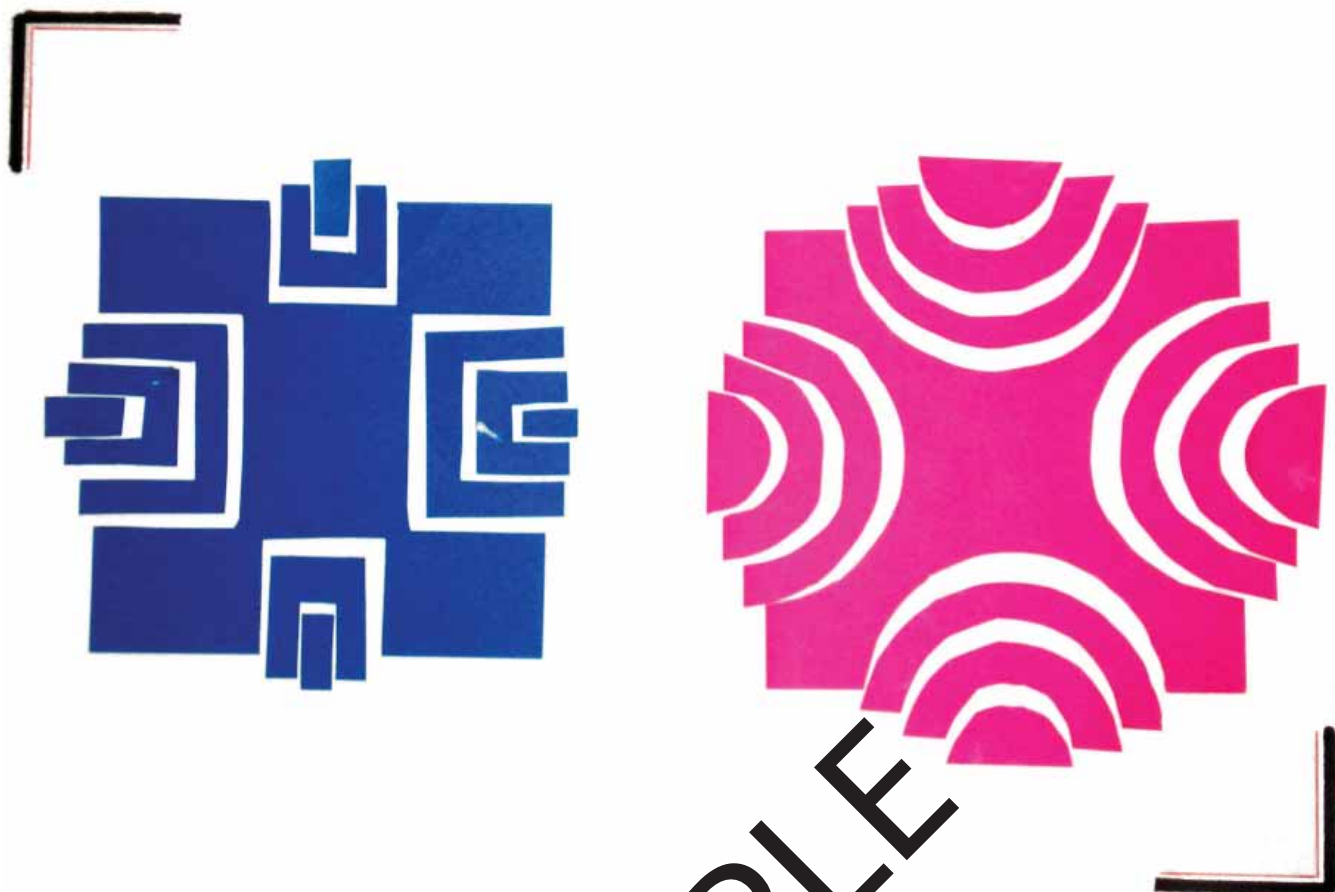
*Keep backing sheet flat until the glue has fully set to avoid pieces falling off.*

## Extension Activity

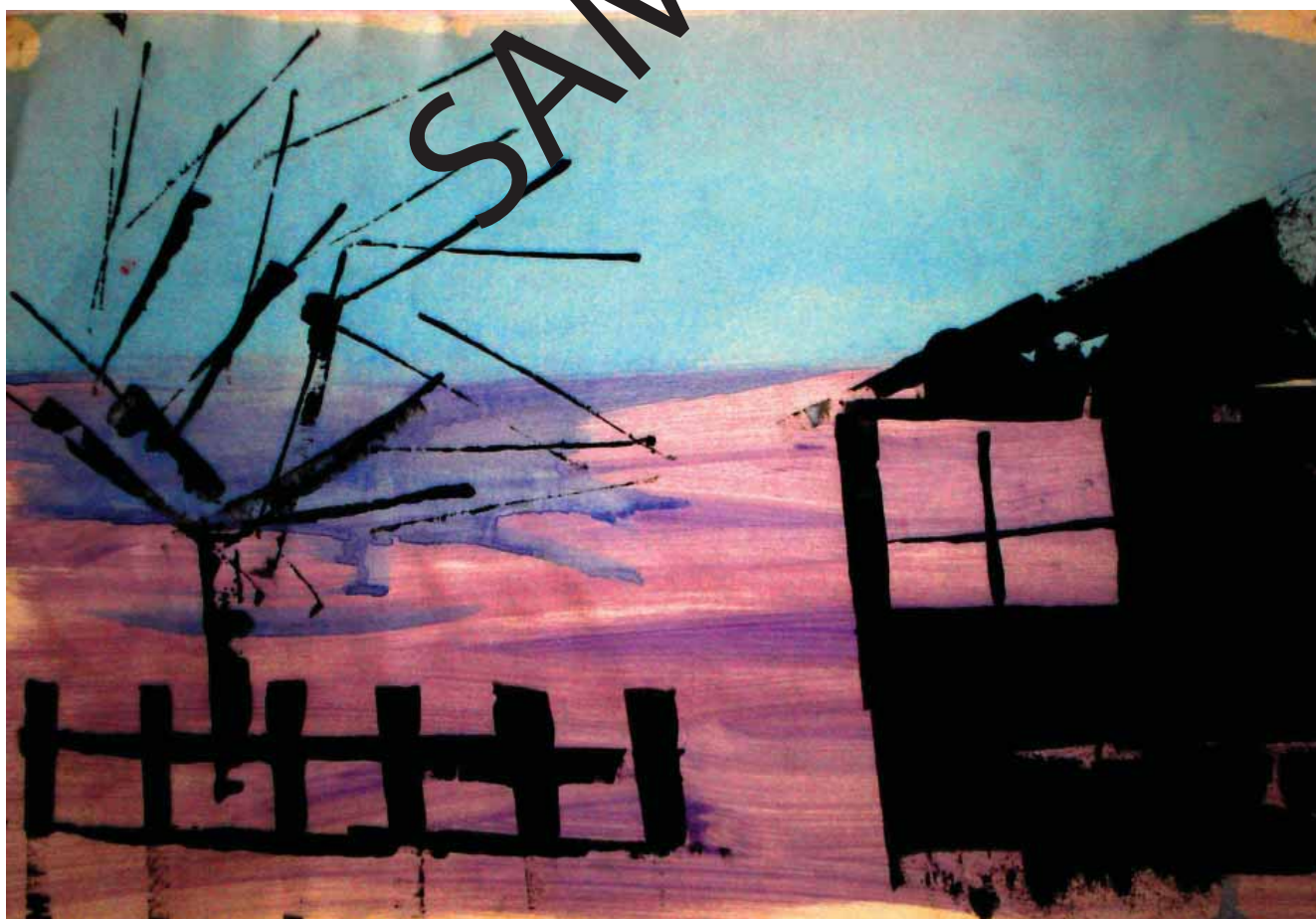
Once a simple design has been completed children can be challenged with a more detailed or larger design, which may take several lessons to complete.

The backing paper might also be done in black for extra effect. Borders and other extras can also be added to complement the finished picture.





**Activity 33: Cut Paper Design** (See page 60)



**Activity 34: Brushless Painting** (See page 61)