

Pumpkin Pattern Painting

Objective: Students will explore texture and pattern in designing and creating a unique pumpkin painting.

Topics & Keywords for Discussion: Texture, pattern, horizontal, vertical.

Materials: 11x 17 watercolor paper, paint and paintbrushes, cups of water, markers, pencils, “How to Draw a Pumpkin” handout, rulers or straight edge cardboard.

Opening activity: Invite student discussion to describe texture and patterns. Have students stand up and display patterns or unique textures on their clothing or backpacks.



Core Activity: Students will be making LARGE paintings of pumpkins, layered with different patterns. Start with the ‘How to Draw a Pumpkin’ instructions, and have students trace the pumpkin in the center of their painting. Then, have students trace 2-3 inch horizontal stripes using the ruler or straight edge, ‘behind’ the pumpkin. Once the shapes are traced, have students paint their pumpkin... let them know they’ll be retracing thick black lines to define the pumpkin shape again when their painting is almost done. Encourage students to alternate patterns along the vertical lines of the pumpkin.

After painting the pumpkin, students should start thinking of pattern elements that they can alternate for the space AROUND the pumpkin, to form the patterned horizontal stripes in the background. They might want to plan their patterns on a separate sheet before they start painting.

After pumpkins and patterned background are complete, have students outline their pumpkin’s shape once again with a thick black marker or black paint.

Reflection: After cleaning up and after the paintings have dried, students should display their completed work for each other, and share about some of their artistic choices in choosing pattern elements.

