

Paint Dot Symmetry Butterflies

K-5

Objective: Students will produce unique patterned flower paintings, demonstrating symmetry, positive space and negative space.

Topics & Keywords for Discussion:

Symmetry: in art, when half of the artwork is mirrored on the opposite half of the page.

Negative space: in art, is the space around and between the subject(s) of an image. Negative space may be most evident when the space around a subject, not the subject itself, forms an interesting or artistically relevant shape, and such space occasionally is used to artistic effect as the "real" subject of an image.



Materials: paint, paintbrushes, cups of water, watercolor paper, scissors, glue.

Opening activity: Mirror mirror! Have students pair up in the classroom, groups of 2. Students should sit across from each other. The student with longer hair is the first leader, the other student in that pair becomes the first mirror. Set a timer for 30 seconds: students have 30 seconds to MIRROR the actions and facial expressions of the leader. After 30 seconds, they SWITCH!

Core Activity: . Let students know that the finished piece may be entered into contest! Students will take a sheet of paper and fold it at the center, cut the paper in half. One half will be the background for the finished piece, the second half will be the paint dot pattern. Take the second half and fold THAT paper in half again! Open it in back up so it's laying flat in front of you. On one side of the fold line, start adding some dots of paint (you can use a brush, a bingo dauber, or gently squeeze straight from the tube) Add them here and there, alternating colors to create a mix of paint dots. Once there are paint dots covering one half of the paper, refold the paper in half again, and gently rub the back a bit to transfer the paint from one side to the other.

Open and voila! you just create a symmetrical print art pattern. Let dry completely. Once it is dry, you will cut butterfly wings out of the pattern: fold the paper in half again and then cut out a wing shape like a GIANT LETTER B and open it up to show the perfectly symmetrical butterfly. Glue this butterfly on a solid color background!

COLLECT the best works from your groups, and please write down on a sticky note, for each piece: Member full name, Age, Artwork title, and Club!

Reflection: Quiz students to point to which part of their art work demonstrates positive space- where the subject of the art is clearly shown, and which part of their art work demonstrates NEGATIVE space- where the space AROUND the subject is actually more artistic than the subject.