

Pixel Art Patterns

K-5

Objective: Students will learn about repeating shapes in patterns and create a pixel art drawing on graph paper.

Topics & Keywords for Discussion:

Pattern: an element that is repeated.

Pixel Art: a style of art inspired by the digital version of images composed of pixels.

Materials: copy paper, graph paper, markers or colored pencils.

Opening activity: Patterns are EVERYWHERE in art and music. What is a pattern? A pattern is what happens through repetition. Ask students to share 1 by 1 an example of a pattern. It could be a beat or a song, the styling on a piece of clothing or shoes, the fabric on a backpack, or even carpet or tile. Patterns are everywhere!

Core Activity: Distribute the copy paper FIRST and give students the assignment to create a small element that will repeat as a pattern. It could be a LETTER, A SHAPE, or a sequence of COLORED LINES. Give them the copy paper and markers FIRST for them to refine their idea, and then distribute the graph paper-

Direct students to create a PIXEL ART PATTERN on the graph paper based on repetitions of their element. This activity is designed to build skill in creating specific shapes in the pixel art format for future shape building arts lessons with pixel art.

Reflection: As students help clean up the space, ask them: was it easy to recreate your pattern on the graph paper? In what way was it a challenge? Can you imagine creating other shapes or even characters in pixel art? All the images on the internet, every photograph, illustration or even movie frame is made up of pixels, just like the objects in minecraft, fortnight and other online games. Do you think you could design images using pixel art? Why or why not?

