

Pixels vs Dots

K-5

Objective: Students will choose a pixel drawing to recreate as a painting using pointillism.

Topics & Keywords for Discussion:

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

Pointillism: a style of painting where dots of color are applied to a surface so that from a distance they all blend together.

Materials: graph paper, markers or colored pencils, multimedia paper, paint & paint trays, cups, water, Q-tips/paint brushes.

Opening activity: “Keep it going!” This is a story-game where students each contribute to keep a story going until everyone has added something. It’s like a game of telephone, but everyone can hear. Staff begins with “Once upon a time there was a _____ “.... and then the staff points to a member who picks up the story. They add a little bit and then point to another member to keep the story going. And on and on and on and on until everyone has had a chance to participate, and the story comes BACK to the staff to bring it to a close- “The End!”

Core Activity: Have the students pick just ONE pixel art piece to recreate as a pointillism or dot painting. They may need to REMAKE their pixel art piece first, please share the graph paper, makers, etc. For the pointillism painting, distribute the multimedia paper, cups of water, Q-tips or paintbrushes, paint. Remind students: small dots make a big painting. They may need to use MORE dots than just one for each pixel/box. Encourage them to keep going until they feel their image is 100% complete!

Reflection: As students help clean up the space, ask them: do you like pointillism? Why or why not? Was it a challenge for you to remake your pixel art piece? Why or why not? What other paintings would you want to make in this style?

