



Cell Op Art Prints—

Cells were first described by the English scientist Robert Hooke, who in 1665 published a book about his findings. Hooke had sliced off thin sections of cork. With a microscope of his own design he was able to see the minute, boxlike units of which the cork was made up. Hooke called these structures "cells". The first description of living cells was provided by the Dutch scientist Anthony van Leeuwenhoek in 1683. More detailed investigations became possible with the development of improved compound microscopes.

Students created their own cells by gluing string to a cardboard block and printing with several inks together.



Japanese Landscape Gardens—

The art of Japanese painting is full of mesmerizing Asian charm when you look at it from a purely decorative view. Landscapes were a rather popular subject for Japanese paintings.

Students used water soluble oil pastels for their landscape gardens. Then they used water and a brush to melt the colors.



Leonardo da Vinci

Leonardo da Vinci painted some of the most important works ever created. But he wasn't only an artist, he was the original "Renaissance Man". Inventor, mathematician, philosopher, engineer, musician, biologist, and botanist. Leonardo was born in 1452 in the small Italian town of Vinci.

"Mona Lisa" is the best known image in all of art history. Everything about this painting is mysterious, including the identity of the subject. Leonardo kept the unfinished painting with him throughout his life, working on it from time to time. Mona Lisa's intense gaze, mysterious expression, and the fantastic dream-like landscape behind her have fascinated people for the last 500 years.

If any painting is the most famous in the world, it is "The Last Supper". In all reverence, he conceived of the moment when Christ says to his disciples, "One of you shall betray me." As a moment of unparalleled human drama. The drama as Leonardo conceived it is an interplay of three states of mind and spirit: that of Christ, who makes his

announcement with foreknowledge that the events leading to his crucifixion are in motion; that of the faithful disciples, who are filled with confusion, astonishment, and incredulity; and finally, that of Judas, who has already made the bargain of betrayal.



Sistine Chapel—

The world's most famous ceiling was painted nearly 500 years ago by one man, Michelangelo. In order to do this, the artist had to work bent over backwards while standing on a scaffold three stories above the ground. He worked alone, day and night, going without food and sleep for years until the ceiling was finished. From the day it was finished, the Sistine Chapel was considered one of the greatest masterpieces in the world.

Students worked on drywall pieces, mimicking the fresco technique (painting on plaster).



Totem Poles—

Totem Poles are monumental sculptures carved from great trees. The beginnings of totem pole construction are not known. Being made of wood, they decay easily in the weather. Totems served useful purposes. Images of animals or mythological creatures were carved to symbolize the legendary history of each family or clan. Markings on the pole might have represented marriages or other important family events. All objects were stylized and decorated with a sense of balance, simple shapes, and harmonious colors.

Students used paper machier to create one part of a totem pole.



Japanese Fish Prints (Gyotaku)—

Gyotaku was invented in the early 1800's in Japan by the fishermen to record their catch. This was their livelihood (not sport fishing as we have today) and they could document the size and types of fish caught and still take it back to be sold or eaten. Also, certain fish in Japan are revered and they would take rubbings of these fish and then place them back in the water. Japanese fishermen took newsprint, ink, and brush out to sea with them. Prints were brought back and displayed in the homes of the fishermen either on walls or in journals to be used as conversation pieces and to relate proud and heroic stories of the catch. It has also developed into an art form, created for their beauty.



Landscapes with Encaustic Painting

Landscapes or views of nature play a significant role in American Art. You can make a landscape to show how a place looks or how it makes you feel. You can show the weather and the time of day. Landscapes can look real or like a dream. We chose Encaustic painting—painting with melted wax that has been mixed with pigment—to give our landscapes a more dreamlike feeling. Encaustic painting has been an artistic medium used for centuries.



Russian Cityscapes with Wassily Kandinsky—

St. Basil Cathedral is the iconic building in Russia, and deservedly so. It's a marvelous piece of architecture with instant appeal to anyone who sees it, whether they know anything about architecture or not. This style of church is uniquely Russian. The lack of symmetry and consistency in the towers and domes is very disarming, but the effect of each individual part and of the whole structure taken together is very pleasing.

Wassily Kandinsky was a Russian artist, born in 1913. He was considered one of the "inventors" of abstract painting. He began by painting realistically, but felt limited by this form of artistic expression. He believed in what he called the "psychological and spiritual effects of color," developing an art form in which shapes and colors alone became the important qualities.

Students took the St. Basil Cathedral and like Kandinsky, they turned it into shapes and colors using colored pencils and metallic paint.



Slave Quilts (as Narrative Art)—

The textile traditions of African peoples are less thoroughly documented than other aspects of folk art such as music, dance, or speech. Originally in Africa most of the textiles were made by men. Yet when slaves were brought to the United States, their work was divided according to western patriarchal standards and women took over the tradition. In Africa, the need to be able to recognize people from far distances was crucial for warring

tribes. This textile tradition of using large shapes and bright colors was carried on. Thus quilts were used by slaves to communicate on the Underground Railroad. Quilts were made in certain colors and patterns in order to give directions, in a broad sense, to the fleeing slaves. They hung on the porches and drying lines of sympathetic houses along the fugitive Underground Railroad.

Students study Faith Ringgold, a famous African American quilt maker, painter, and story teller. Then use wallpaper to create their narrative art by making one square of a quilt.