

KANDINSKY PRINTS

To become familiar with line, draw and flood fill facilities. To understand that using simple line and shape may produce simple results. To appreciate that background colours other than white can be used.

†† Individuals or pairs.

⌚ 20 minutes at the computer; 10 minutes demonstration.

Previous skills/knowledge needed

The children need to be aware that the geometrical shape drawing tool in graphics programs produces a variety of shapes such as circles, squares and triangles.

Key background information

T graphics software offers an excellent opportunity to experiment with arranging colour, shape and form without the necessity of creating 'realistic' pictures. Such experiments can produce simple abstract drawings which look attractive and offer children instant success in that there is no right or wrong but simply an enjoyment of coloured shapes and forms. Historically, the Cubist Movement and the school of 'modern art' arose from this kind of artistic expression.

Children will need to see a variety of examples of modern art, such as pictures of works by Mondrian, Klee and Kandinsky, to appreciate the style and formulate their own ideas. Children are used to being given pieces of white paper on which to start their drawings but with IT they can start with a background or 'page' of any colour.

Vocabulary

Drawing tool, flood fill, rubber banding, background, foreground, Cubism.

Preparation

Make one copy of photocopiable page 133 for each child. Collect together some examples of modern art on posters or in books, particularly those by artists such as Kandinsky and Mondrian.

Resources needed

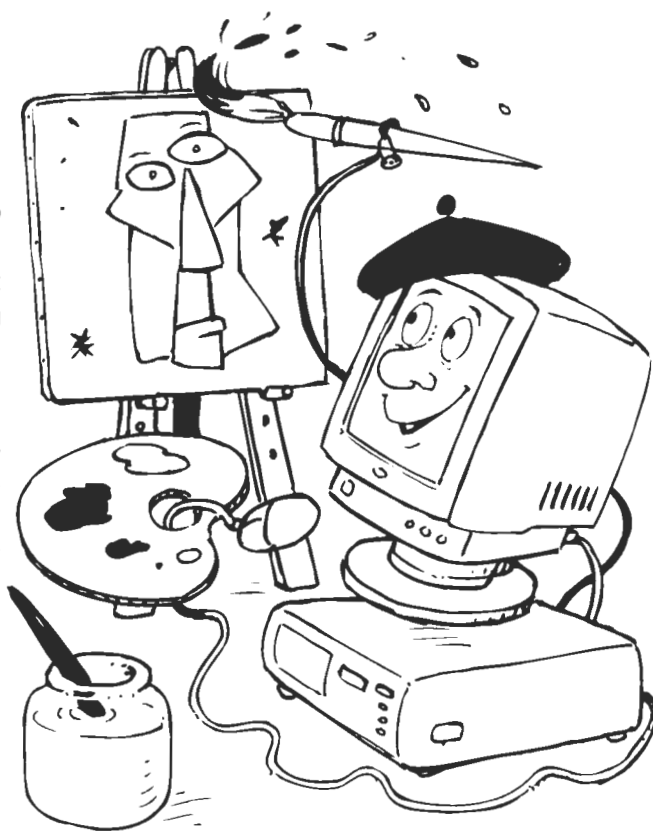
A computer, graphics software with shape drawing tools to create squares, triangles and circles, a colour printer, paper (preferably special colour printer paper for brighter reproduction), some examples of Cubist art for discussion and stimulation, photocopiable page 133.

What to do

Show the children the examples of modern art you have collected and point out the attributes which make it fit this category. Look at the shapes and colours that the artists used. Discuss how these pictures mostly concentrate on shape, form and colour and look at the balance between the areas of colour. Tell the children that you are going to paint your own piece of modern art using the computer. Starting with a blank screen, use the geometrical shape drawing tool to create a number of overlapping squares, circles and triangles. Show the children how, when using this tool, the first click of the mouse often fixes a corner of a shape or the centre of a circle. Moving the mouse outwards produces dotted lines showing what the shape would look like if you were to click the mouse for a second time. Explain that this is known as 'rubber banding', as the lines grow and shrink with each movement of the mouse. (The children will need to experiment later with different shapes and learn to relate the mouse movement with what is happening on the screen.)

Leave plenty of empty areas within your shapes and use the colour fill tool to colour them. Don't forget to fill in all around to create a coloured background. If possible, try not to have the same colour on both sides of any border. The completed effect can look very appealing, rather like a stained glass window.

Having watched your demonstration, tell the children that they can now produce their own masterpieces. Before they start on the computer, however, give each child a copy of photocopiable page 133 to provide an opportunity to design their picture and experiment on paper first. (Make sure that they keep their drawings abstract rather than trying to create something realistic.) When they come to use IT, they should appreciate how much easier it is to make changes to their designs. Encourage them to start with a



Communicating information

coloured 'page' or background on the computer by flood filling the white screen.

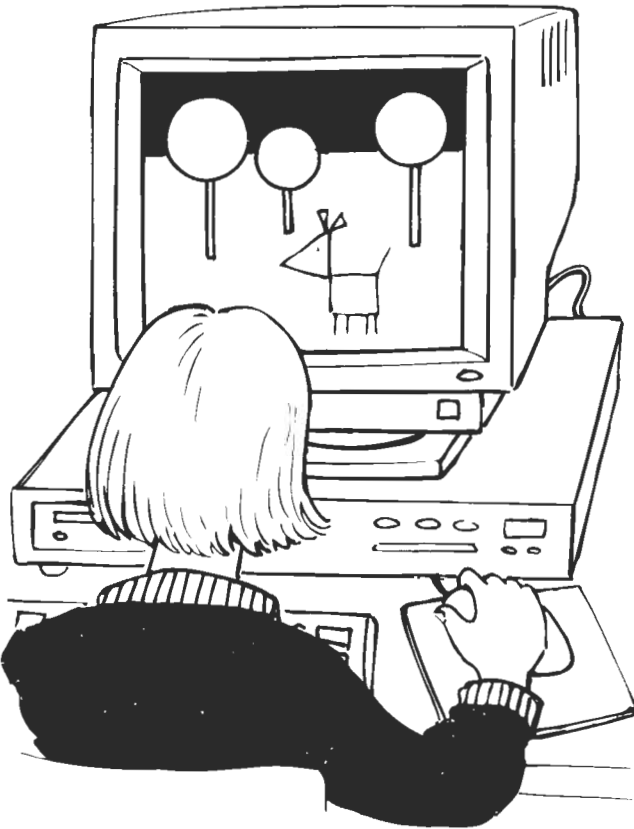
This activity should not take too long – 15 minutes is plenty of time. The children may well have enough time to print out two or three examples of their individual designs, each filled with different colours.

Suggestion(s) for extension

Invent rules for this activity such as using only three squares, three circles and three triangles in any one design, or eight rectangles only, according to the level of the children's ability. As in the previous task, 'Four-colour exercise' on page 37, you could also limit the number of colours used.

Suggestion(s) for support

Suggesting that the children use only rectangles for their design will simplify the task. Once they have completed one design like this, they can then go on to try using different shapes.

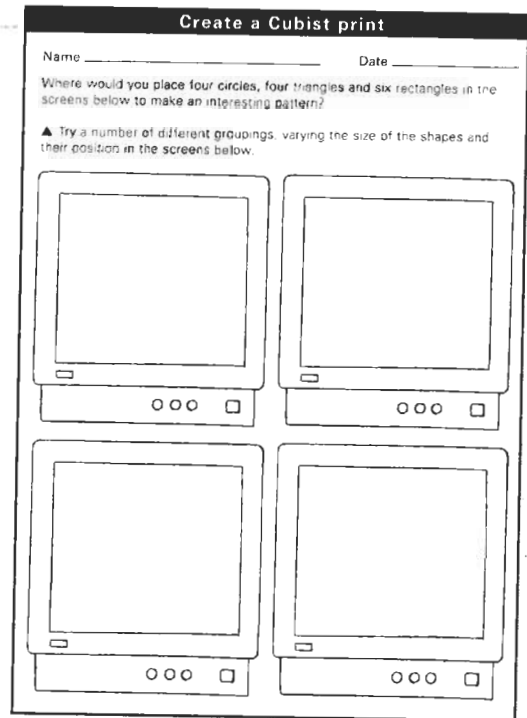


Assessment opportunities

There are assessment opportunities during this activity to determine how well pupils use IT equipment and graphics software tools to produce pictures in a particular style. There are also opportunities to make assessments in art.

Display ideas

The children's work from this activity can look most attractive when carefully mounted. Although most printers



accept ordinary photocopying paper, superior colour reproduction can be achieved by using special colour printer paper. This paper does not absorb the ink but allows it to dry on the surface, resulting in much brighter colours. Including pictures of modern works of art by famous artists such as Kandinsky will add educational value to the display.

Reference to photocopiable sheet

Photocopiable page 133 allows the children to produce some rough designs for their drawings before creating them using IT. This will help them to appreciate the greater flexibility that IT offers for such tasks over conventional art materials.

MOOD PICTURES

To experiment with a variety of graphic tools to achieve a specific outcome.

†† Individual or pairs.

⌚ 20 minutes at the computer; 10 minutes discussion.

Previous skills/knowledge needed

A familiarity with the basic tools available within a graphics program (brush/pencil tool, line drawing tool, flood fill tool and so on) and the type of effects they achieve.

Key background information

Colours have the power to affect our moods, although we may not always be aware of this. This activity allows the children to experiment with a variety of IT graphics tools to produce an abstract 'happy picture' without having to be

Create a Cubist print

Name _____

Date _____

Where would you place four circles, four triangles and six rectangles in the screens below to make an interesting pattern?

▲ Try a number of different groupings, varying the size of the shapes and their position in the screens below.

