

“Shape Cats”



Objective: Use basic shapes to draw a recognizable animal face.

Materials

- 9 x 12-inch paper
- Pencils
- Black crayons
- Watercolors

Motivation

- Discuss and observe images of [Laurel Burch's](#) artwork, specifically her cats.
- Talk about how shapes can be put together to make animals.
- Optional: Place transparencies on top of animal photos and have students find the basic shapes with dry erase markers.

Step 1: Practice

Ask students to look at photos of cats and identify shapes they can see. Demonstrate how to use shapes to draw a cat's face. Break things down into very simple directions: triangle ears, semi-circle face, oval eyes, etc...

Have students do a few practice drawings to get the hang of things.

Step 2: Draw

Pass out the final paper and have students use black crayons or oil pastels to draw the face. Encourage students to press hard and fill the page.

Have students add details like whiskers, a body, and anything else they would like.

Step 3: Paint

Demonstrate proper brush techniques. Show students how they can outline a shape before filling it in with color. Have students paint their cats in whatever colors they would like.

Tip: Go over the swish, wipe, and blot method for cleaning a paintbrush between colors.

Tip: Talk about rushing and how it can affect craftsmanship.

Tip: As an extension, add patterns with oil pastels or crayons before the final step.