

Core Art Unit Organizer  
Eighth Grade  
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## Abstract Expressionism

State Standards:

**1. Students recognize and use the visual arts as a form of communication.**

Students will observe how Abstract Expressionists communicated through their work.

**2. Students know and apply elements of art, principles of design, and sensory and expressive features of visual arts.**

Students will observe how Abstract Expressionists used the Elements and Principles of Art in their work.

**3. Students know and apply visual arts materials, tools, techniques, and processes.**

Students will create their own Abstract Expressionist painting.

**4. Students relate the visual arts to various historical and cultural traditions.**

Students will understand how Abstract Expressionism was influenced by culture.

**5. Students analyze and evaluate the characteristics, merits, and meanings of works of art.**

Students will observe and discuss what Abstract Expressionists were communicating through their work.

Core Knowledge Standards:

Painting since World War II

Examine representative artists and works, including

Jackson Pollock and Abstract Expressionism: *Painting*, 1948

Willem de Kooning, *Woman and Bicycle*

Mark Rothko, *Orange and Yellow*

Helen Frankenthaler, *Wales*

Previous Unit:

Principles of Art.

Next unit:

Pop Art/African American Art.

## Resources:

Prints and digital images of Abstract Expressionist art.

## Skills:

Students will be able to:

- Recognize work created by Core Knowledge artists
- Understand what Abstract Expressionists were trying to communicate and why.
- Create artwork in the style of Abstract Expressionism.

## Assessments:

- Periodic oral questioning.
- Daily review using Quick Sketches.
- Evaluation of student created artwork.
- Written test and quizzes.

## Habits of Mind:

### 1. Communication Skills

- Discuss works of art.
- Describe works of art.
- Exhibit works of art.
- Use the visual arts as a form of communication.

### 2. Elements of Art and Principles of Design

- Describe how, interpret and compare.
- Perceive art in terms of the principles of art.
- Apply the elements and principles of art.
- Understand expressive features of the visual arts.

### 3. Manipulation and Observation- Process

- Observe and understand how.
- Use tools.
- Follow step by step.
- Measure and mix.

#### 4. Values and Attitudes

- Reason why.
- Understand art in terms of art history.
- Question, investigate, and observe.

#### 5. Critical Response Skills- Art Criticism and Aesthetics

- Ask "How do you know."
- Form useful questions, consider, and respond.
- Practice critical thinking.
- Inspect works of art.