

Meet the Artist

Vasily Kandinsky

1st grade | [Link to Slides](#)

Expected length of lesson - 1 hour

Enduring Understanding: Stories

Stories that reflect your family, culture, language and history are important to remember so you don't forget where you came from. Stories also give us a way to see into someone else's life. Stories connect us to each other.

Vocabulary:

- **Abstract Art:** Art that does not show things you can recognize, like trees and faces. Instead, it tries to express ideas and feelings by using shapes and colors.
- **Warm colors:** Red, orange, yellow. They tend to look like they are moving.
- **Cool colors:** Blue, green, purple. They tend to look like they are farther away.
- **Concentric circles:** Circle inside of other circles

3 Minutes (Slides 1-4) Introduction

3 Minutes (Slides 5-6) 4 things about the Artist

10 Minutes (Slides 7-8) Visual Thinking Strategy (VTS) - Color Study: Squares with Concentric Circles, 1913

A VTS is an instructional technique that can boost students' critical thinking and evidence-based argumentation. You can see an example of how to facilitate a VTS in [this video](#).

- Parent projects the artwork in the slidedeck and allows students to look carefully at the art.
- After students silently examine the art for 30 seconds - 1 minute, the Parent asks, **“What’s going on in this image?”** The Parent calls on one student. As the student responds, the Parent points at the features of the image, if any, that the student mentions.
- The Parent then asks the same student the second question: **“What do you see that makes you say that?”** Again, the Parent points to the evidence in the image as the student speaks and then paraphrases.
- The third and final question welcomes other student responses: **“What more can we find?”** When another student responds, the Parent continues to repeat the second and third questions, linking other student responses.
It’s important to note there are no right or wrong answers, and you do not have to rush the process. Let the kids guide the conversation about what they see and what makes them say that. Art is open to interpretation, regardless of the artist’s intention. No previous knowledge of the artwork is required.
- After the Visual Thinking Strategy, say, **“Thank you everyone for making these observations from the artwork. Now let’s create our own art to tell a story.”**

25 minutes (Slide 12) Artmaking - Walk around while art making is happening. Ask students to tell you their story regarding their work

5 minutes Have students share with class their individual work

5 minutes Closing

- (Describe Analyze Reflect) What did we do today? Why is Vasily Kandinsky’s work important? (or Enduring?) What resonated with you?
- Students may pass in or take home artwork at the end of lesson