



# The Artists that Inspire the Art Lessons

**Piet Mondrian** (1872-1944) was a Dutch painter that was one of the pioneers of abstract art. His later work for which he is best known was created with geometric squares and rectangles, thick and thin black lines, and mainly primary colors (red, blue, and yellow), black, white, and gray.



**Henri Matisse** (1869-1954) was a French artist who was known for his bold colors and shapes. His early work was considered revolutionary in that it departed drastically from traditional art. His paintings expressed emotion with wild colors that often "fought with each other." His work was objective, yet his colors were sometimes not realistic. He later transitioned to more abstract forms as in the samples in this lesson. Later in life, due to illness he was confined to a wheelchair and could no longer sit or stand at an easel to paint, so he began working with collage, using cut paper and glue. He described his later work as "drawing with scissors."

**Jean Miró** (1893-1993) was a Spanish artist whose work was both objective and non-objective abstract surrealism. He lived in both Barcelona and Paris and was best known for his later work which consisted of simple organic and geometric shapes and lines. His playful work was often referred to as childlike.



[Click the images to link to short kid-friendly videos on the artists.](#)

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**Marc Chagall** (1887-1985) was a Russian-born artist who spent his working life in Belarus, France, and New York City (during WWII). He was considered a Modernist painter. His work was dreamlike and fanciful. His themes based on Jewish folklore from Eastern European cultures. His art tells stories. It has been said that "his colors sparkle with poetry."



**Frida Kahlo** (1907-1954) is now one of the most famous women artists in the world. She was born in Mexico City and spent most of her life in Mexico with short stays in San Francisco and Detroit with her famous husband, painter Diego Rivera. Her art was most often very personal in that she did many self-portraits, many of them depicted with her favorite *animalitos* and pets. She explained that "I paint myself because I am often alone, and I am the subject I know best." She was considered a surrealist painter as her work, while somewhat realistic, was strange and unreal at the same time. She rarely smiled because she was in constant pain, having suffered a terrible bus accident in Mexico City when she was just 18 that left her with many physical medical problems.

[Click the images to link to kid-friendly short videos on the artists.](#)



# Vocabulary Words Learned in this Unit Plan

Try and use some of these words in your poetry:

## Types of lines:

horizontal  
vertical  
diagonal  
perpendicular  
parallel  
intersecting  
straight  
wavy  
zigzag  
broken  
curly  
jagged

## Artist Names you may have learned about:

Piet Mondrian  
Henri Matisse  
Jean Miró  
Marc Chagall  
Frida Kahlo

## Types of shapes:

### geometric

square  
circle  
rectangle  
triangle  
star  
oval  
heart  
pentagon  
hexagon

### organic

## Types of colors:

### primary

red  
blue  
yellow

### secondary

orange  
purple/violet  
green

### tertiary

red-orange  
yellow-orange,  
yellow-green  
blue-green  
blue-violet  
red-violet  
warm colors  
cool colors

## Types/Styles of Art:

realistic/realism  
surrealistic/surrealism  
abstract/abstracted  
objective  
non-objective  
revolutionary  
traditional  
non-traditional  
landscape  
seascape  
cityscape  
impressionist/impressionism  
post-impressionist  
self-portrait  
wildlife  
botanical  
modern art  
narrative

## Misc. Art Words:

illustrator  
fashion designer  
architect  
industrial designer  
landscape designer  
graphic designer  
overlapping  
floating  
mixed-media  
splatter  
symbols  
cutouts  
collage  
poems/poetry  
dream-like  
rhyme  
rhythm  
imagery  
structure  
pattern