

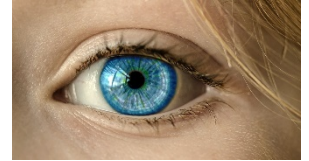
Day 4 Light and Sound: Senses

Science

We are constantly using our five senses to experience the world around us. Try these two experiments to explore sight and sound:

Are Two Eyes Better Than One?

What this experiment shows: How two eyes give you more depth perception, which is the ability to judge how near or far objects are.



Materials: Two pencils

Instructions:

1. Hold a pencil lengthwise (on its side) in each hand.
2. Now, with one eye closed, try to touch the erasers together. Did you miss?
3. Now, try it with both eyes open. Voila! Two eyes give you better depth perception.

Do You Hear What I Hear?

What this experiment shows: How many sounds you can recognize.



What you need:

- A friend or two
- A blindfold
- Stuff to make noise (coins to jingle in a jar, a book to close, hands to clap, paper to crumble, paper to rip, bubblegum to crack or pop, a ball to bounce, and supplies for any other sounds you want to make)

Instructions:

1. Blindfold your friend.
2. Make each noise.
3. Ask your friend to guess what the noise is. How many did your friend guess right?

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Additional Resources:

Learning about synesthesia
<http://ow.ly/wAvL50AJsCW>



Can You Taste with Your Ears? | Braincraft
<http://ow.ly/pEPG50AJsEi>



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Social Studies

Wassily Wassilyevich Kandinsky was a Russian painter and art theorist who is believed to have had synesthesia, a harmless condition that allows a person to appreciate sounds, colors or words with two or more senses simultaneously.

Read about Kandinsky and his artwork and consider how his ability to “hear” colors may have influenced his work.



Art History and Artists

Wassily Kandinsky

Taken from: https://www.ducksters.com/biography/artists/wassily_kandinsky.php

- **Occupation:** Artist, Painter
- **Born:** December 16, 1866 in Moscow, Russia
- **Died:** December 13, 1944 in Paris, France
- **Famous works:** *Composition VI, Composition VII, On White II, Contrasting Sounds*
- **Style/Period:** [Expressionism](#), [Abstract Art](#)

Biography:

Where did Wassily Kandinsky grow up?

Wassily Kandinsky was born in Moscow, Russia on December 16, 1866. He grew up in the [Russian](#) city of Odessa where he enjoyed music and learned to play the piano and the cello. Kandinsky would remark later that, even as a child, the colors of nature dazzled him. Both music and colors would have a huge impact on his art later in life.

Becoming an Artist

Kandinsky went to college and then became a law teacher. However, when he was thirty he decided to change careers and become an artist. He attended art school at Munich, Germany. Early on his art was influenced by painters like Claude Monet as well as music composers and philosophers.

Early Art

Kandinsky's early paintings were landscapes that were heavily influenced by Impressionist artists as well as Pointillism and Fauvism. The most famous of his early works is *The Blue Rider* which he painted in 1903.

Abstract Expressionism

About 1909 Kandinsky began to think that painting didn't need a particular subject, but that shapes and colors alone could be art. Over the next several years he would start to paint what would become known as Abstract Art. Kandinsky was one of the founding fathers of Abstract Art.

Colors and Shapes

Kandinsky felt that he could express feelings and music through colors and shapes in his paintings. For example, he thought that yellow had the crisp sound of a brass trumpet and that certain colors placed together could harmonize like chords on a piano. The shapes he was most interested in were the circle, triangle, and the square. He thought the triangle would cause aggressive feelings, the square calm feelings, and the circle spiritual feelings.

Later Years

While refining his art and ideas over the next several years, Kandinsky took on different positions and moved around some. From 1914 to 1921 he returned to Russia. During this time he married his wife Nina. When his art was rejected in Russia he moved back to Germany to teach at an art school called the Bauhaus. He left Germany in 1934 because of the Nazis and moved to Paris where he lived until his death in 1944.



Composition VII

Composition VI (1913)

This painting is an example of Kandinsky's Abstract Expressionist art. He planned the painting for six months and wanted it to represent a number of feelings including flood, baptism, destruction, and rebirth. When he finally went to paint he was blocked and could not paint. He finally resorted to repeating the word "flood" over and over again and began to paint. He finished the painting in three days.



Composition VI

Concerning the Spiritual in Art

In 1911 he wrote an essay called *Concerning the Spiritual in Art*. He described three types of paintings including "impressions", "improvisations", and "compositions". Many of his paintings were named using these titles and a number. Some examples of this include the paintings *Composition X* and *Impression V*.

Legacy

If Kandinsky wasn't the first abstract artist, he certainly was one of the founding fathers of the art form. His art and essays on art have had influence over many artists during the last century.

Interesting Facts about Wassily Kandinsky

- Many of his paintings used names as if they were songs or musical works like *Composition* and *Improvisation*.
- He named the paintings he considered the most accomplished "Composition". He only named ten of his paintings this way.
- He once said that "Everything starts with a dot".
- About abstract art he said that "the more frightening the world becomes...the more art becomes abstract".

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Math

Recreate Kandinsky's Concentric Circles on Squares using the attached key.

NAME _____

Recreating Kandinsky's Concentric Circles

Materials: Sheet of computer paper; crayons or markers

Directions: Take a minute to closely look at this famous work of art. After you review it, use the sounds from the "What Does The Color... Sound Like" worksheet to recreate your own version of the picture. When you create your picture, think about what it would "sound" like.

1. Fold your paper in half.
2. Fold it in half again
3. Then, fold it in half a third time
4. Unfold the paper and you should have eight (8) sections
5. Draw and color in a different colored circle in the center of each section
6. Draw a larger circle around the first circle and color that circle in next
7. Repeat step 6 until you "FEEL" you have enough circles
8. Once you complete your circles, complete each section by coloring in the background (**NO WHITE SPACE ☺**)
9. Share your masterpiece with your family and teach them about Kandinsky and his medical condition **synesthesia** which gave him the ability to "hear" colors



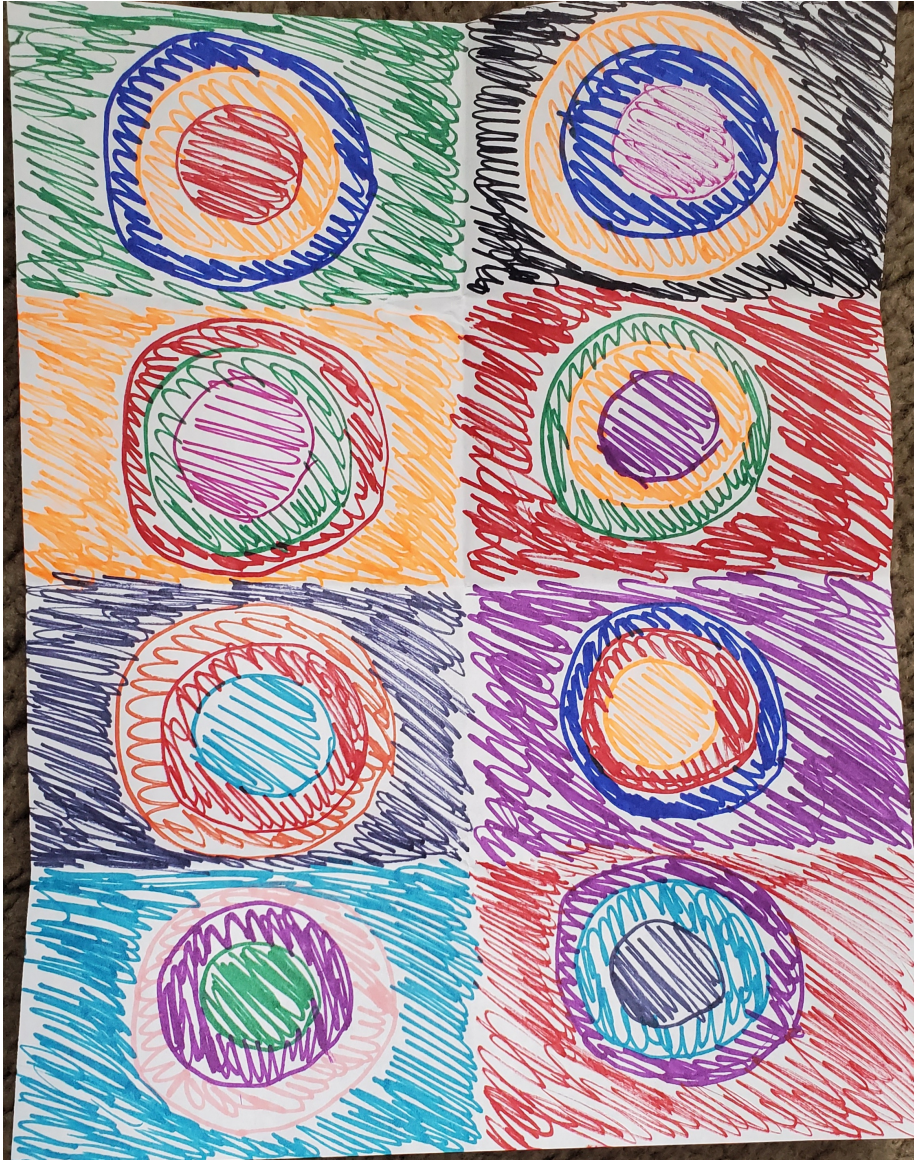
Additional Resources:

Kandinsky Experiment | The Majesty of Music and Math

<http://ow.ly/chC250AJumD>



Kandinsky Sample Project



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English Language Arts

What Does the Color Red (and Others) Sound Like?

Directions: Think carefully about the colors on the pages. If these colors were a sound, what would you hear? Record your answers below! You will be using this chart to recreate Kandinsky's Concentric Circles on Squares.

Color	What Does it Sound Like?
RED	
YELLOW	
ORANGE	
GREEN	
BROWN	
BLUE	
PURPLE	