

3rd Grade: February
Lesson 4: Planets
Chalk Pastel

Objective: To compose a solar system with dimension and blended pastels.

Technique: Drawing with chalk pastels

Set-up: (before lesson starts, docent and aides)

9"x12" black construction paper (2 per student)

Chalk pastels

Baby wipes

Scissors

Glue

Spray fixative

Visuals:

Photographs of solar systems and planets

Sample artwork

Teaching the Lesson: (1 hour, total)

Give your aides a brief summary of the lesson

Introduce yourself and your aides

Students will be drawing planets, and creating their own galactic composition. They will be working with chalk pastels, learning how to blend and layer. They will create dimensional planets by layering colors of pastels, as well as arranging them in a 3-dimensional composition. Show sample artwork.

1. Review (5 min)

- Last's month's Neighborhood lesson focused on mixing colors, including tinting (adding white to lighten a color) and shading (adding black to darken a color). These same skills apply when using pastels. In the case of pastels the mixing happens right on the paper. It is also possible to make neutral colors by blending two colors that are opposite on the color wheel (Refer to Color Wheel). These mixed neutral colors would be good to use on far away objects such as a smaller, distant planet in this lesson.

2. Pastel use and technique (5 min)

- They resemble chalk, but are quite different. Pastels can be used to draw, sketch, color, add small details, and even to blend and smear like paint or chalk.
- **Holding and applying:** Hold your pastel sideways (NOT a like pencil or crayon), between thumb and forefinger. Press softly but firmly on one spot of the paper; this will give you a short but broad mark/streak.
- **Blocking:** Blocking is filling in a space with color. You can use the side or the tip of the pastels and color in your shapes. Your hand will control how dark or light you want to make the color—a bit more pressure on the pastel may make the color appear darker; and less pressure may make the color appear lighter.

- **Blending:** Blending is done by starting with one color, and rubbing an area/patch of color on the paper; next, lightly rub another layer of color over the first color. These two layers will visually blend and look like a color somewhere in between the 2 colors of the pastel.
- **Tip:** Advise students to BE CAREFUL. Avoid blowing the pastel dust up; rather tilt the paper and let dust fall on your desk.

3. Plan and Draw (5 min)

- Show photographs of solar systems and planets
- Each picture has different sized planets, compositions, and color themes.
- Choose a composition that appeals to you. Each drawing needs to have one **large** planet (whole or partial), about the size of a cantaloupe (approx. 6-8 inches).
- Choose a color for the planet you would like to draw. With the corner of the pastel, draw the outline of the shape to represent the planet. Continue with additional planets, up to three (3), using a different colored pastel for each one, and different sizes and shapes.
- Each planet is to be drawn separately (no overlapping).
- To “paint” the largest planet, choose vivid rich colors from the pastel box. As it is the largest and closest planet, it would have more visible surface texture such as craters and rougher surface lines.
- The second and third planets could be “painted” with more muted colors. Experiment by layering complimentary colors or make tinted and shaded colors by layering and blending colors with white or black.

4. Color (20 min)

- Hold up two fingers...these two fingers are going to be your “paintbrush.”
- For pastels, you don’t smear colors together with the palm of your hand.
- All you need are just the tips of your fingers. When your fingers get dirty, ask for a wipe to clean them and then you can change colors.
- After all the planet shape outlines are completed, block in shapes with a base color by using the side of the pastel to fill-in the large area. Use your two fingers to smooth out the base color.
- Each of your planets should be represented by a different dominant pastel base color.
- After the base color is filled in, build up the intensity of color by layering different colors within each planet. Once you begin to layer, leave the strong colors and lines, and only do a minimal amount of blending with your fingers. This helps show the variation of colors.
- Use different hues, or colors, next to each other (blue-light blue-green, red-orange-yellow, etc.)
- Use swirls and circles to show movement on your planet, add highlights with white or light colors

Note: As students finish their planets, direct aides to quickly spray fixative on artwork OUTSIDE of the classroom. Return work to students to complete project. (Do not allow children to be present when spraying and close doors to the classroom)

5. Cut and Compose (10 min)

- After artwork is sprayed with fixative, cut-out planets and set them aside
- With remaining scrap paper, cut small strips, 2-4 inches long and 1 inch wide. Make 2-4 accordion folds in the strips.
- Arrange planets on clean black paper, in a composition that is appealing to you, being careful not to smudge the pastel artwork. Planets may overlap, and be placed in front or behind another one.

6. Complete and Share (10 min)

- Glue accordion strips to underside of the planets, and then to the black paper, according to your composition (see picture below). Press firmly to set glue. (This step may also be done with tape, if it is easier)



- Using corner of pastel, add smaller highlighted accents of color for finishing emphasis with light colored pastels. Add space dust or other distant stars to the background to create a deeper field of vision
- Sign name
- Give a title
- Share

Clean-up: (after lesson ends, docent and aides)

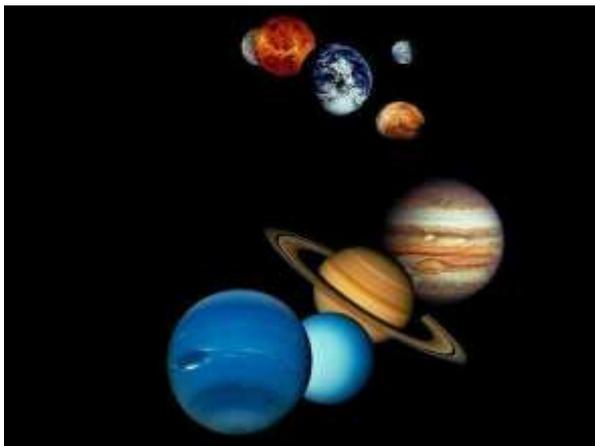
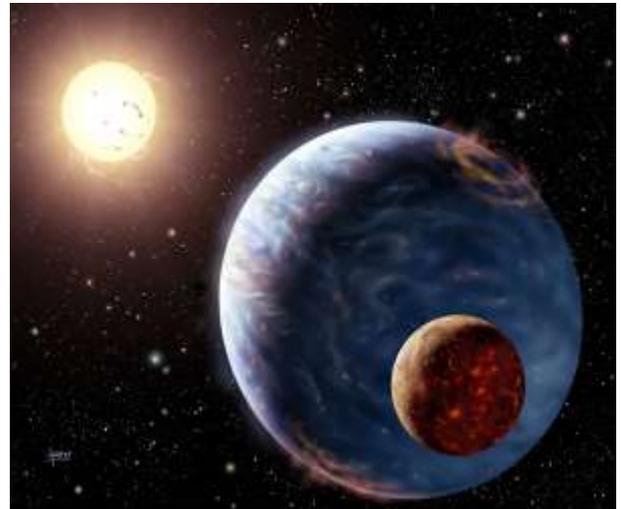
Close the lesson, clean up the classroom

Return pastels to boxes

Return all materials to bin and bin to the art closet

Ask teacher where to store artwork and Arrange time with teacher to display artwork





Pictures of Planets



Student sample