Create Your Own Pop Art

Inspired by artist Robert Indiana

ACTIVITY

Students will use the **hard-edge painting technique** to create Pop artworks inspired by Robert Indiana.

Hard-edge painting is an approach to abstract painting that was popular in the 1960s. It uses bold, flat colors and sharp edges.

If using paint for this project, the colors should be bold "out of the tube" and unmixed.

Think about the three or four colors you will choose:
Will you use **primary** colors (red, blue and yellow)?
Or maybe **secondary** colors (green, orange and purple)?
Did you know that if you pair colors with their opposites on the color wheel you will have **complementary** colors (red with green, blue with orange, yellow with purple)?

MATERIALS:

- Ruler *(create your own ruler by using the edge of a firm piece of paper, cardboard or book)*
- Tape *(clear scotch, masking or painters tape will work)*
- Pencil
- Paper
- Paint, Markers, Crayons and/or Color pencils
- Paintbrush
- Cup of water (to change colors if you are painting with watercolors)

Step 1
Use a ruler to create a square "frame" for your artwork.

Step 2
Use tape to create a stencil of the letters in ART.

Form a large triangle for the **A**.

Next create the **T**.

Curves can be difficult to create with tape, so use the tape roll to trace an outline for the curve of the R and then straight and diagonal lines to finish the letter **R**.

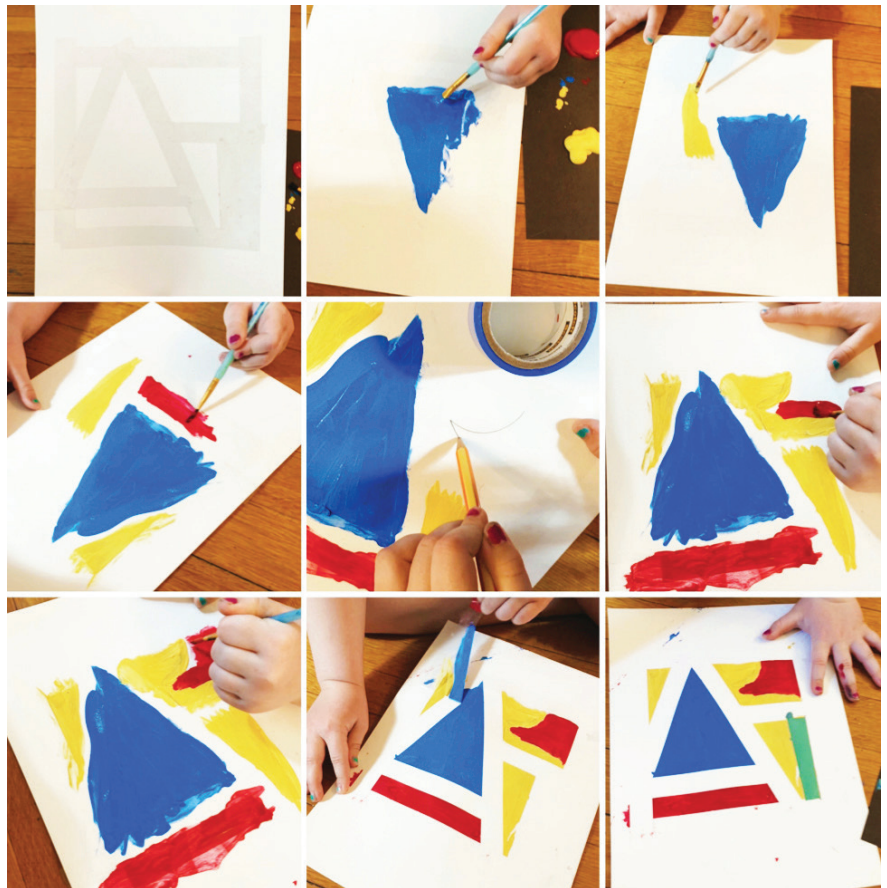**Step 3**
Fill in the blocks with solid colors.

Step 4
Wait for your paint to dry.

Step 5
Once dry, gently peel away the tape and reveal your finished artwork with the "hard-edge" lines underneath!

Step 6
Ask an adult to share you creations with us on social media at **#NEUtoDoKids**!

This project was created by the Neuberger Museum of Art Education team.
nma.education@purchase.edu

Step 1
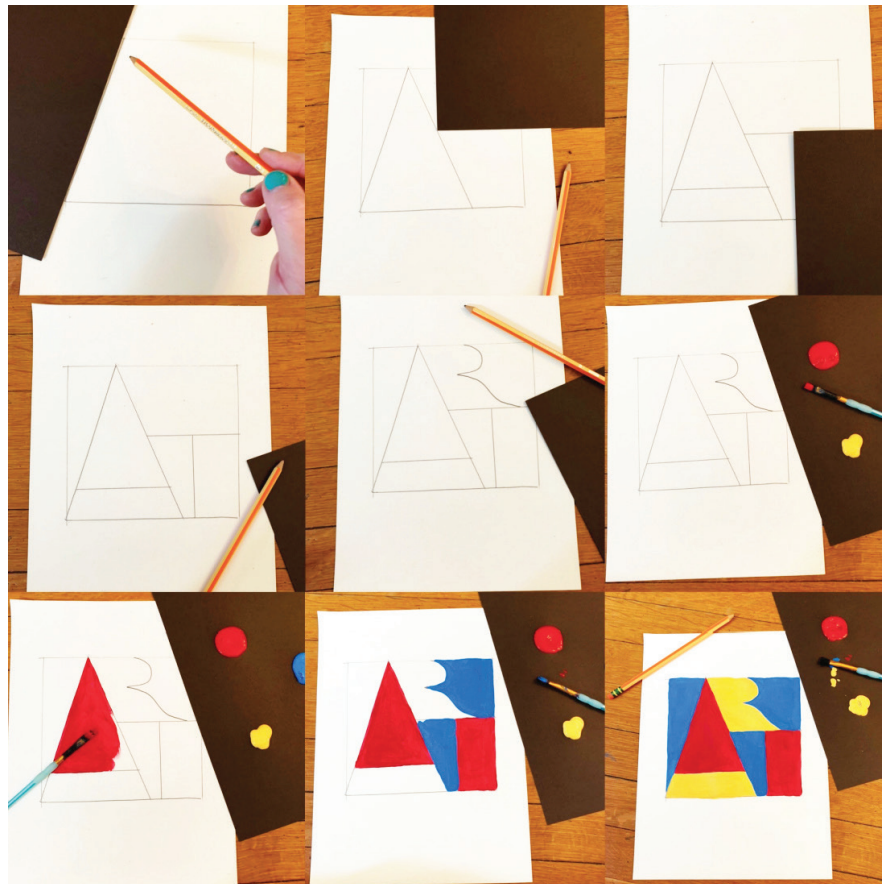Use a ruler to create a square "frame" for your artwork.

Step 2
Draw two diagonal lines and one straight line to create a large **A** on the left side of the square. Connect the diagonal lines so they touch the top and bottom of the frame.

Step 3
Draw a small **T** in the lower right corner.

Step 4
In the upper right corner, free hand a strong **R**.

The letters should be stacked on top of one another like building blocks within the square frame you created.

Step 5
Once your template is created, fill in the spaces with three solid colors. You can use color pencils, marker, crayons or paint. Here in our sample photo we used primary colors. Make sure your colors do not overlap or share the same edge. Take your time to create a firm line and be sure to allow time so each addition of color can dry before you continue to the next color.

Step 6
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Step 1

Choose a three or four letter word that means something to you. **LOVE**, **HOPE**, and **FUN** are all words that would be great for this project!

Step 2

Use a ruler to create a square "frame" for your artwork. Next, divide the square into three or four sections so you have a section for each letter.

Step 3

Now add block letters into each space on the grid.

SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR OUR TIP ON DRAWING BLOCK LETTERS!

For LOVE, you can stack them just like Robert Indiana did by placing **L** and **O** go on top and **V** and **E** on the bottom.

Step 4

Choose three or four colors. You can use paint, markers, crayons and/or color pencils.

Step 5

Fill in each block letter with a different color.

Step 6

Next, fill in the space around each letter with a different color than the color of the letter. If using paint, be sure to wait for each color to dry so the colors don't run together and smudge.
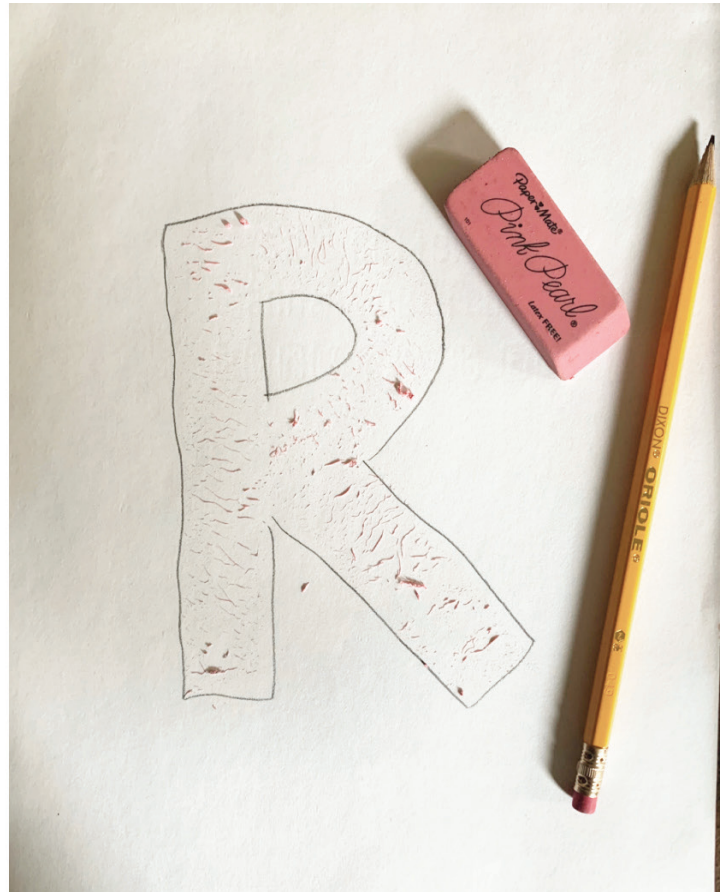
Step 7

Ask an adult to share you creations with us on social media at **#NEUtoDoKids**!

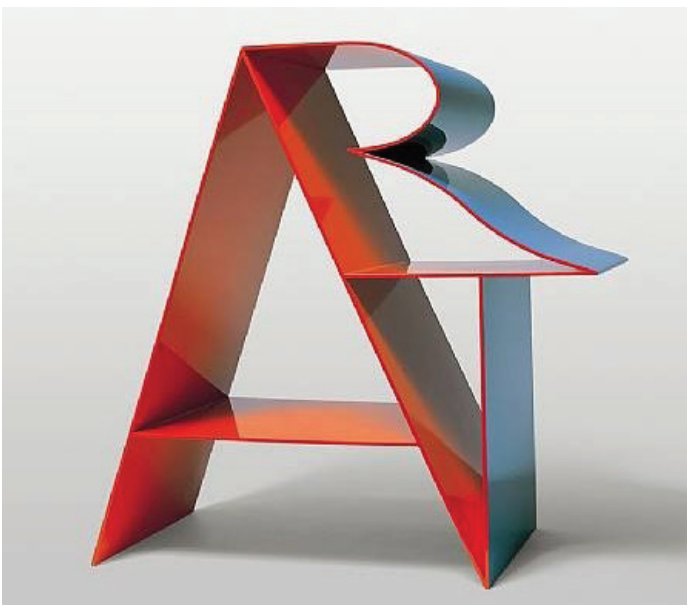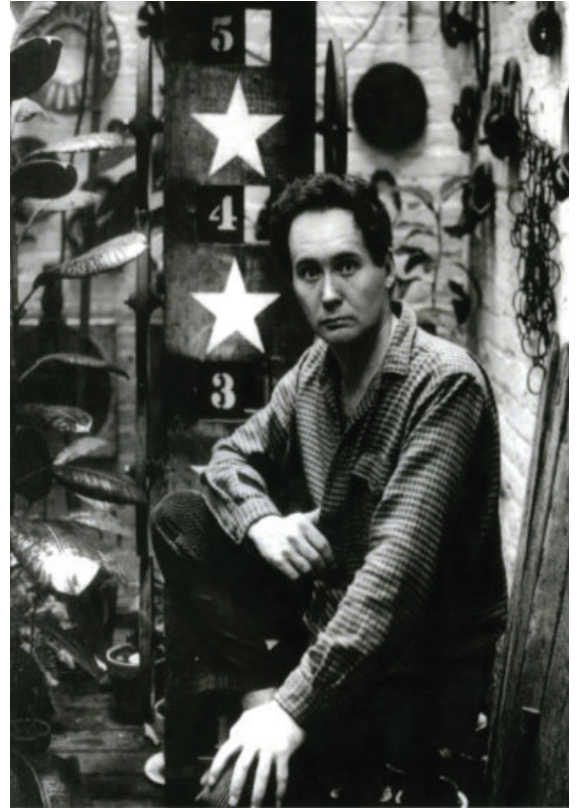**This project was created by the Neuberger Museum of Art Education team.**
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Use an eraser to create the shape of a letter, then trace around the eraser marks with a pencil.
Now you've drawn a block letter!

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Robert Indiana (September 13, 1928–May 19, 2018) was an American artist who played a central role in developing assemblage art, hard-edge painting, and Pop art. A self-proclaimed "American painter of signs," Indiana's work explores themes such as American identity, social and political issues, the power of abstraction, and language.

Indiana's work often consists of bold, simple, iconic images, especially numbers and short words like ART, EAT, HUG, and, his best-known example, *LOVE*. The depiction of the word "LOVE," which appears in upper-case letters arranged in a square with a tilted letter "O," has been recreated in images and large scale sculpture. He referred to these works as "sculptural poems".

Another well-known work by Indiana is *ART*, 1972, a polychrome aluminum sculpture that stands at over 7 feet tall and has been part of the Neuberger Museum of Art collection since 1976.

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