

# RHYTHM

## ONE OF THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF ART

Rhythm creates an underlying beat that suggests movement or action in art.

Rhythm provides a path for the viewer's eye to follow in an artwork.

Lines, shapes, color, brushstrokes, light, and space help the artist create this visual tempo.

*Rhythm is one of the principles of art that is sometimes easier to show than to describe in words, so we've included a lot of images on the next page of this worksheet.*

Rhythm refers to the movement within a piece of art that helps the eye travel through the to a point of focus. Like in music, rhythm in art can vary in its speed ... some works are more calm and relaxed while others are more energetic and active. Others may even seem a bit off balance if the rhythm is regular.

Rhythm, repetition, and patterns are similar but interconnected concepts. Each is also distinct from the others. Pattern has rhythm, for example, but not all rhythm is patterned. Before we continue, let's look at the definitions:

- A **PATTERN** is a recurring element in a particular arrangement. It may be a motif that repeats itself in a textile or it may be a predictable pattern such as a checkerboard.
- **REPETITION** refers to an element that repeats. It may be a shape, color, line, or even a subject that occurs over and over again. It may form a pattern and it may not.
- **RHYTHM** is a little of both pattern and repetition, yet the rhythm can vary. The slight differences in a pattern create rhythm and the repetition of elements of art create rhythm. The rhythm of a piece of art can be controlled by everything from color and value to line and shape.

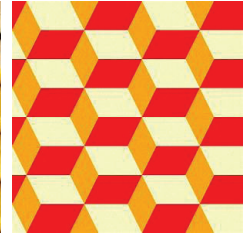
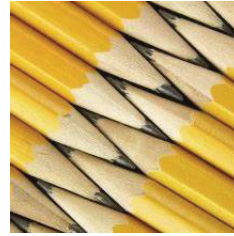
Have fun exploring the different types of rhythm and then looking around your home, school, and neighborhood to see how the visual beat in various types of art makes you feel!

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## ALTERNATING RHYTHM

Describes an artwork that contains a repetition of two or more components that are used interchangeably. Some alternating rhythm examples include alternating light and dark colors or placing various shapes and/or colors in a repeating pattern.



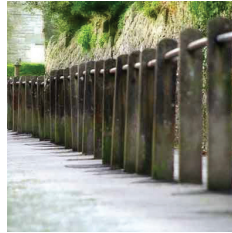
## FLOWING RHYTHM

Describes an artwork that contains curved or circular elements that give the art movement. Some flowing rhythm examples include flowers, clouds, or waves.



## PROGRESSIVE RHYTHM

Describes an artwork that contains repeating elements in a pattern that change either in size or color as they repeat. Some progressive rhythm examples include building blocks arranged from smallest to largest and spirals.



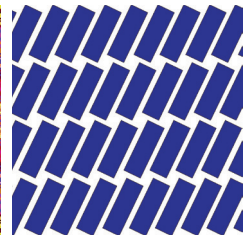
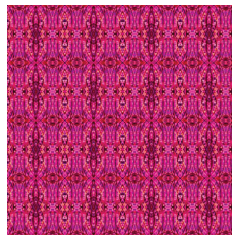
## RANDOM RHYTHM

Describes an artwork that contains repeating elements without a specified order or arrangement. Some random rhythm examples include splatters of paint or shells on a beach.



## REGULAR RHYTHM

Describes an artwork that contains repeating elements with a specified order or arrangement that can be measured. Some regular rhythm examples include evenly spaced windows or tiles.



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## WORD SEARCH

Look up and down and across to find these 18 RHYTHM words:

ALTERNATING	COMPOSITION	NEGATIVE	RANDOM	SHAPES
ARRANGEMENT	FLOWING	PERCEPTION	REGULAR	STROKES
BEAT	MARK	POSITIVE	REPETITION	
BREAK	MOTIF	PROGRESSIVE	RHYTHM	

V	E	D	G	A	L	T	E	R	N	A	T	I	N	G	P	G
M	Z	P	E	R	C	E	P	T	I	O	N	F	A	F	A	Q
A	Z	S	Q	Q	Q	M	Y	P	S	H	A	P	E	S	B	P
R	S	J	N	S	P	O	S	I	T	I	V	E	D	C	B	H
K	L	R	B	E	A	T	G	U	Y	T	R	F	D	O	S	A
M	N	U	G	X	F	O	D	A	X	A	W	C	I	M	P	J
X	E	W	R	E	L	T	C	E	Z	I	C	S	D	P	R	J
B	N	P	E	R	O	B	M	D	S	N	Q	T	H	O	O	J
R	L	W	G	A	W	S	O	D	J	E	Y	R	U	S	G	N
E	G	X	U	N	I	X	T	E	P	G	J	O	L	I	R	M
A	N	V	L	D	N	Z	I	V	J	A	Z	K	T	T	E	Y
K	I	X	A	O	G	I	F	N	K	T	F	E	G	I	S	N
C	I	F	R	M	Q	J	W	D	V	I	E	S	C	O	S	C
H	H	I	V	R	H	Y	T	H	M	V	R	V	E	N	I	Q
U	X	A	R	R	A	N	G	E	M	E	N	T	M	C	V	W
C	X	X	J	H	R	O	E	C	U	H	C	A	M	M	E	D
R	E	P	E	T	I	T	I	O	N	T	Y	Z	L	C	K	A



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## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to unscramble these 18 RHYTHM words:

1. TANTLARGENI \_\_\_\_\_
2. EENRATNAGRM \_\_\_\_\_
3. TBAE \_\_\_\_\_
4. ARBKE \_\_\_\_\_
5. SCNOMOPTIIO \_\_\_\_\_
6. INOGWLF \_\_\_\_\_
7. MKAR \_\_\_\_\_
8. MITFO \_\_\_\_\_
9. TIAEVENG \_\_\_\_\_
10. PINPOEETRC \_\_\_\_\_
11. OPIESTVI \_\_\_\_\_
12. PRREGIVOSSE \_\_\_\_\_
13. RNOMDA \_\_\_\_\_
14. RGRELUA \_\_\_\_\_
15. RTNEIOTIPE \_\_\_\_\_
16. TMHRYH \_\_\_\_\_
17. SAHSEP \_\_\_\_\_
18. SKTEORS \_\_\_\_\_

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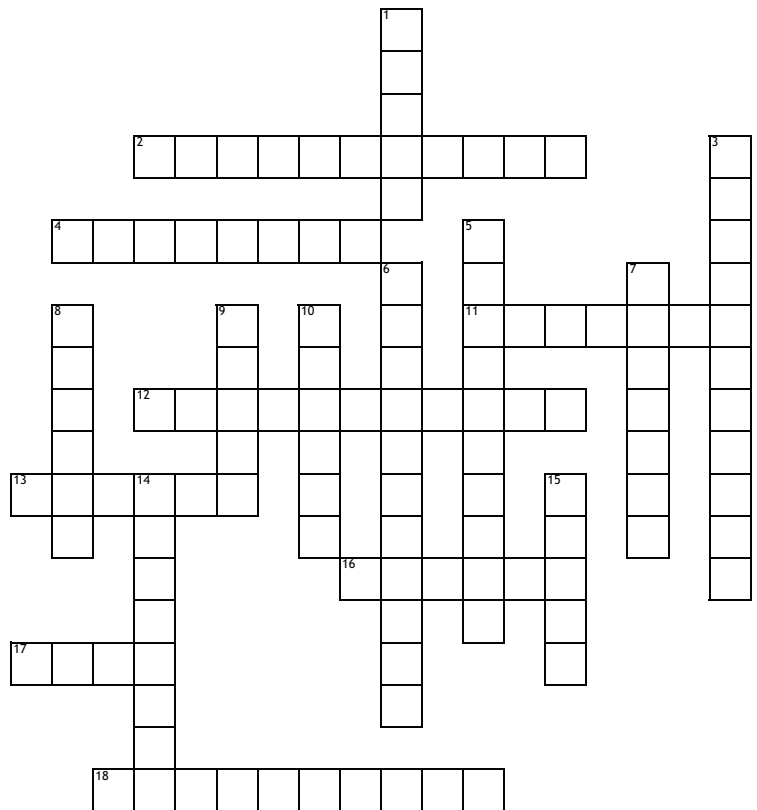
## CROSSWORD

### Across

2. term meaning "putting together"
4. characterized by the absence rather than the presence of distinguishing features
11. type of rhythm that contains repeating elements with a specified order
12. the organization of elements in an art work
13. geometric figures
16. mark made on a surface by a pen, pencil, or paintbrush
17. tempo
18. recurrence of a particular line, pattern, shape or other visual element

### Down

1. an element of a pattern, image or theme
3. type of rhythm that contains repeating elements in a pattern that change either in size or color as they repeat
5. complex relation between visual stimuli and a personal understanding of them
6. type of rhythm that contains a repetition of components that are used interchangeably
7. type of rhythm that contains curved or circular elements
8. visual tempo in an artwork
9. different lines, patterns, and textures created in a piece of art
10. type of rhythm that contains repeating elements without a specified order or arrangement
14. area or part of a composition that the subject occupies
15. interrupt a sequence



### Word Bank

Alternating	Mark	Random
Arrangement	Motif	Regular
Beat	Negative	Repetition
Break	Perception	Rhythm
Composition	Positive	Shapes
Flowing	Progressive	Strokes

Answer Key: 1. Motif; 2. Composition; 3. Progressive; 4. Negative; 5. Perception; 6. Alternating; 7. Flowing; 8. Rhythm; 9. Marks; 10. Random; 11. Regular; 12. Arrangement; 13. Shapes; 14. Positive; 15. Break; 16. Strokes; 17. Beat; 18. Repetition