

Lines

Grade 1 – Lesson 1

(*Art Connections*, Level 1, pgs. 14-15A)

Big Idea

Lines can have different qualities – thick, thin, rough, smooth, solid, broken.

Learning Targets and Assessment Criteria

Target 1: Describes and makes lines with various qualities. (Arts GLE 1.1.1 *Elements of Art: Line quality*)

Criteria 1: Points out and makes thick lines.

Criteria 2: Points out and makes thin lines.

Criteria 3: Points out and makes smooth lines.

Criteria 4: Points out and makes rough lines.

Criteria 5: Points out and makes solid lines.

Criteria 6: Points out and makes broken lines.

Target 2: Uses variety to create visual dynamism. (Arts GLE 1.1.7 *Principles of Design: Line quality for expressive effect, Variety*)

Criteria 7: Combines different qualities of line in one composition to make a visually exciting image.

Local Art Reference



Tempel Wandmalerei II (Temple wall painting II), 1920

Paul Klee

52.107

Seattle Art Museum

(NOTE to Teacher: See **Art Background** section at end of lesson for more information about this work of art.)

Looking at Art Questions

(Note to Teacher: Show both Paul Klee's *Temple Wall Painting II* from SAM and *New York City – Bird's Eye View* by Joaquin Torres-Garcia from *Art Connections*, Level 1, pg. 14.)

1. Artists can make lots of different kinds or **qualities** of lines. What words would you use to describe the lines in these pictures?
2. Can you find **thick** and **thin** lines in these pictures?
3. Can you find **solid** and **broken** (dotted or dashed) lines in these pictures?
4. If you could touch the lines in this picture, are there any that look like they would feel **smooth** or **rough**? Where are they?
5. How do you suppose the artists of these pictures made a rough line or a smooth line?
6. What do you think the picture by Joaquin Torres-Garcia is about? Why do you suppose he used lots of different qualities of line to show his view of New York City?
7. Sometimes artists put lots of different qualities of line together in the same picture to make it **visually interesting**. What do you think is the most interesting part of the composition? Are there lots of different kinds of lines there?

Art Making Activity

(See the **Create** section *Art Connections*, Level 1, pg. 17)

Make an Exciting City Scene

How can you use lots of different kinds of lines to make a picture of a busy city scene?

1. In your sketchbooks, practice making lots of different qualities of lines with oil pastels. Can you make thick, thin, rough, smooth, broken and solid lines?
2. Also, think about what kinds of things you want to include in your city scene. Will you have skyscrapers, trees, trolley cars, buses, rocket ships?
3. Remember to include at least three different qualities of line to make your picture visually interesting!
4. Steps for Teacher:
 - a. First demonstrate different ways to use oil pastels, including smearing with a paper towel “finger ghost.”
 - b. Have students practice making different qualities of lines with oil pastels in their sketchbooks.
 - c. Facilitate visual brainstorming, asking students for ideas of what to include in their exciting cities. The cities could be from the *past, present or future*.
 - d. Have students draw the lines of their city scenes in oil pastel. Remind them to use at least three different kinds of lines for visual interest.

- e. Finish by having students lightly apply watercolors to selected areas throughout their whole composition.

Each Student Needs

- A 8x11 sheet of watercolor paper, taped on all four sides with blue painter’s tape to laminated “art mat”
- Optional: A sketching pencil (2H-4H are good light pencils for sketching)
- Sketchbook

Every Pair of Students Needs

Day One

- A set of oil pastels

Day Two

- A set of watercolor paints
- Soft watercolor brushes
- A water container
- Paper towels

| Vocabulary | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Line quality | Broken |
| Thick | Solid |
| Thin | Visual interest |
| Smooth | |
| Rough | |

Tips for Teachers

Before class

- Pre-tape watercolor paper to laminated “art mats” with blue painter’s tape on all four sides of paper

Prepare:

- A cookie sheet tray for each table group, containing:
- Watercolor sets
- Water containers (one for every two students, filled half-full)
- Watercolor brushes
- Stack of paper towels

During class

- Demonstrate how to get various qualities of line with oil pastel, including smearing/blending colors with a paper towel “finger ghost.”
- Remember to remind students to use at least three different qualities of line in their city scenes for visual interest. You could even put this criteria on the board.

Reflecting on Our Art (from *Art Connections*, Level 1, pg. 15A)

- **Describe:** What kinds of lines did you use in your city scene?
- **Analyze:** How did you decide where to place your lines where you did?
- **Interpret:** What is the mood or feeling of your picture? Give your work a title.
- **Decide:** Where do you think your composition is the most visually interesting?

Art Background (for **Temple Wall Painting II**, by Paul Klee)

Klee was born in Münchenbuchsee (near Bern), Switzerland, into a musical family—his father, Hans Klee, was a German music teacher at the Hofwil Teacher Seminar near Bern. Klee started young at both art and music. At age seven, he started playing the violin, and at age eight, he was given a box of chalk by his grandmother and was encouraged to draw frequently with it. Klee could have done either art or music as an adult; in his early years, he had wanted to be a musician, but he later decided on the

visual arts during his teen years. He studied art at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich with Heinrich Knirr and Franz von Stuck. After traveling to Italy and then back to Bern, he settled in Munich, where he met Wassily Kandinsky, Franz Marc, and other avant-garde figures and became associated with Der Blaue Reiter. Here he met Bavarian pianist Lily Stumpf, whom he married; they had one son named Felix Paul.

In 1914, he visited Tunisia with August Macke and Louis Moilliet and was impressed by the quality of the light there, writing, "Colour has taken possession of me; no longer do I have to chase after it, I know that it has hold of me forever... Colour and I are one. I am a painter." Klee also visited Italy (1901), and Egypt (1928), both of which greatly influenced his art. Klee was one of Die Blaue Vier (The Blue Four), with Kandinsky, Feininger, and Jawlensky; formed in 1923, they lectured and exhibited together in the USA in 1924. Klee influenced the work of other noted artists of the early 20th century including Belgian printmaker Rene Carcan.

Klee worked with many different types of media—oil paint, watercolor, ink, and more. He often combined them into one work. He has been variously associated with expressionism, cubism and surrealism, but his pictures are difficult to classify. They often have a fragile child-like quality to them and are usually on a small scale. They frequently allude to poetry, music and dreams and sometimes include words or musical notation. The later works are distinguished by spidery hieroglyph-like symbols which he famously described with, "A line is a dot going for a walk".

Excerpted from Wikipedia online at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Klee

Assessment Checklist

| Student | Points out and makes different qualities of lines | | | | | | Combines at least three different qualities of line for visual interest | TOTAL 7 |
|------------------------------|---|------|--------|-------|-------|--------|---|------------|
| | Thick | Thin | Smooth | Rough | Solid | Broken | | |
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| 31. | | | | | | | | |
| Total Points | | | | | | | | |
| Percent Comprehension | | | | | | | | |

Teacher Notes:

Letter Home

Dear Family,

*Today we learned to recognize and make lots of different **qualities of lines**. We learned that when you combine different line qualities – **thick, thin, rough, smooth, solid, broken** – into one composition it can create **visual interest**. We looked at two different works of art that use a variety of qualities of line, one by Swiss artist Paul Klee and another by the Uruguayan artist Joaquin Torres-Garcia, and then we made exiting city scenes with lots of different kinds of lines.*

At home you could look for different qualities of line in your clothes, curtains, and furniture. Where can you find the greatest variety of line qualities? We made our city scenes with oil pastels. You can get these for a very reasonable price at NW Art and Frame, Target or most art or office supply stores.