
Grade 2 Project: Oil Pastel Value Snowmen

Element of Art: Value

Objective: to explore how value can help shapes appear more like 3D forms and to learn how to paint and blend with oil pastels.

Artistic Influence: the picture book Snowmen at Night, by Caralyn & Mark Buehner



Element of Art:

Value (value contrast)

Materials:

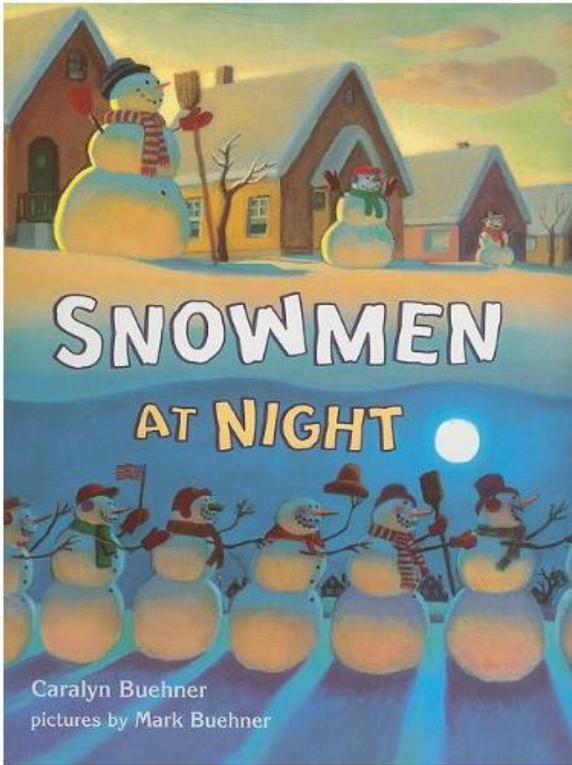
- **Oil pastels**, esp. white and dark blue
- **Baby wipes**, to wipe off fingers after blending
- **Dark blue construction paper**
- **Paper towels**

Instructions and notes:

1. If possible, try to read the book Snowmen at Night, by Caralyn & Mark Buehner to the class before you teach, or ask the teacher read the book prior to the lesson time. The lesson will take about an hour to complete in addition to reading the book.
2. Before you begin, check that you have enough white and dark blue oil pastels. This project uses up these colors quickly, especially the white oil pastels.
3. Follow the steps in the PowerPoint slide deck.
4. Remind students to hold paper firmly with one hand while drawing or blending with the other.
5. Blending oil pastels requires firm but gentle pressure. Remind students to take it slow and to be careful not to rumple their paper.
6. **Optional**, distribute parent information page for students to take home, and print an extra page to post on your bulletin board with the finished art. See handout on following page.

Oil Pastel Value Snowmen

The goal of this 2nd grade lesson was to explore how value contrast can help shapes appear more like 3D forms and to learn how to paint and blend with oil pastels.



WA State Visual Arts Standard (VA:Cr2.2.2)

Demonstrate safe procedures for using and cleaning art tools, equipment, and studio spaces.

In this art lesson taught by volunteer art docents, students learned about **value** in art, the lightness and darkness of a line, shape or form.

Our inspiration for this project was the book Snowmen at Night, by Caralyn & Mark Buehner. The illustrator did an excellent job making the snowmen look spherical through his careful use of value contrast. We tried to simulate the same effect by using white and dark blue oil pastels, which the students carefully blended together on the page with their fingers.

The development of this Lake Washington School District art docent lesson was made possible by a grant from the Lake Washington Schools Foundation.