

4th Grade LWSD Art Docent Project: Optical Web

Element of Art: Space

Objectives: To understand how to use line and color to create a 3-D effect on a flat surface and to create the illusion of depth or space in an Op Art spider web.

Artistic Influence: Bridgette Riley



OR



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Materials:

- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Sharpie or thin black marker (optional)
- Colored pencil (just one color, medium-dark)
- White drawing paper 8 ½ x 11; Construction paper can be substituted; or copies of web template
- Variety of colored cardstock paper, cut to ½ sheet (8 ½ x 5 1/2), Construction paper can be substituted

Definition(s): (see definitions on last page)

- Op Art: (Optical Art) a form of abstract art that gives the illusion of movement by the precise use of pattern and color, or in which conflicting patterns emerge and overlap.

Instructions and notes:

1. First choose which object will be glued to the top of web (spider or student). If you choose to use photos of the students, the optical web is called a “vortex” instead.
2. If you choose the spider, the directions are in the slide deck. If you choose the student, just skip over the spider slides. Pictures will need to be taken of each student and printed (you may want to stand on a chair to take the pictures). Once printed, you may want to cut them out for the students to save class time.
3. Study the artwork in the PowerPoint beforehand so you can bring some of your own insights and questions about them. It is always a good idea to do a sample of the lesson so you have experienced the process of the project yourself. We suggest doing half of the web and using the other half to model shading.
4. Slide 2: Have this slide up while students are transitioning and getting ready to begin art.
5. Slide 3: Briefly explain the artistic element of **space** and define Op Art.
6. Go through the steps in the PowerPoint slide deck.
7. This lesson in its entirety can take up to 1 ½ or two one-hour sessions (Shading takes the most time). To save time, you may print off one of the web patterns below on white cardstock. If you do this, the students will need to extend the lines with a thin black marker to the sides of the paper.
8. Slide 7: It is easiest to do the shading with a dull colored pencil.
9. 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 following page.
10. Please complete the brief [LWSD Art Docent Program Feedback Survey](#) for this lesson.
11. Thank you for supporting our elementary students’ visual arts education.

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The goal of this 4th grade lesson was to create the illusion of a 3-D object through space and color.



Blaze 1, 1962, Riley

WA State Visual Arts Standard

Compare responses to a work of art before and after working in similar media.
(VA: Re.7.1.4)

In this art lesson taught by volunteer art docents, students learned that **SPACE** is the area above, below, around, and within an artwork; the illusion of depth or space on a flat surface, created by means of the following techniques: rendering shapes and forms so that they overlap and using size, detail, value, color, and linear perspective.

The students used color pencils to draw and shade the areas focusing on creating an illusion of depth to create an optical web.

The inspiration for this project was **Bridgette Riley**, who uses paint and a great variety of lines and geometric forms that produce sensations of movement or color. She became a leader in the Op Art movement (Optical art) and her art was said to induce sensations in viewers as varied as seasickness and skydiving.

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







