



EduTrend Contents

P4C · AESTHETICS AND ART · PRIMARY

Is My Drawing Art?

What turns a picture into art?

Ages 8–11

Level: Developing

45 minutes

Whole class circle · up
to 30

Activity 02

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 pupil worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 02 · AT A GLANCE

Is My Drawing Art?

Pupils make a quick drawing, then look at cards showing a famous painting, a child's scribble in a frame, a sign on a door, a sculpture made from rubbish and a pattern on wrapping paper. They sort them into art, not art and not sure. They create questions and enquire into whether their own drawings are art.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- compare kinds of images;
- apply ideas about art;
- give reasons and examples;
- build on others' ideas.

KEY WORDS

art · artist · drawing · museum · make · meaning

CURRICULUM LINKS

Art: artists and styles. English: describing images. History: art through time.

1

STIMULUS

Share something to think about

2

THINK

Quiet thinking time

3

QUESTION

Create and choose a question

4

ENQUIRE

Reason together

5

BUILD

Agree, disagree, add

6

REFLECT

Last words

Materials (per class)

- Drawing paper
- Art sorting cards
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people, and use the story or invented examples rather than personal situations.

ACTIVITY 02 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–8 min Stimulus	Make quick drawings, then sort the art cards.	<i>"What did you notice?"</i>
8–18 min Questions	Pupils create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>"Which question is most interesting to talk about?"</i>
18–40 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other's ideas.	<i>"Is my drawing art?"</i>
40–45 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>"Has your thinking changed?"</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Explain whether your drawing is art.

ACTIVITY 02 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Philosophers have suggested many ideas about what makes something art, such as skill, expression, meaning or being shown as art.

Children's own drawings are a good test case for these ideas.

Common ideas to listen for

- "Art has to be old or famous." Many artworks are new.
- "Art must look realistic." Much art does not.
- "If you like it, it is art." Liking and art differ.

Adapting the activity

Support

Sort four cards.

Stretch

Ask: is a beautiful sunset art?

WORKSHEET 1

Our questions

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Write questions the stimulus makes you wonder about.

Our questions

Question	Who asked	Votes

WORKSHEET 2

Art or not?

Sort.

Art or not?

Picture	Art?	Why

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

What makes something art? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight pupils; copy as needed.

Pupil	Asks a philosophical question	Gives reasons and examples	Listens and builds on others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Is My Drawing Art? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Aesthetics and Art programme (primary, level: developing). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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