

# What can you do with a Dot?

by Marcia Beckett, EAGLE School of Madison, K-6 Art Teacher, Madison, WI

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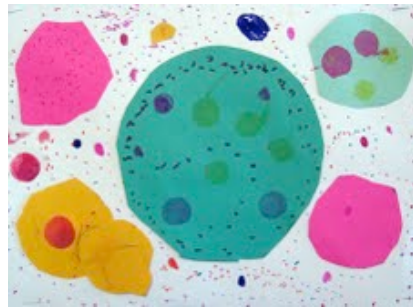
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Grade: Kindergarten + (this is a great project to gauge fine motor skills and to develop cutting and gluing skills).

Objectives: Students will be able to..

- creatively use DOTS to make a work of art.
- draw and cut circles in various sizes.
- use overlap to create interest in a picture.
- consider all areas of the page to design a balanced work of art.



Materials: construction paper, scissors, glue, markers

Vocabulary:

Dot: A tiny round mark made by or as if by a pointed instrument; a spot

Overlap: to place on top of or cover part of



Procedure:

1. Make a dot on a piece of paper. Ask the students what it is. Ask them to imagine the dot bigger. What would it be? A larger dot would be a circle. Show the students how to draw and cut out circles. Encourage choosing a variety of colors and sizes. Show how circles can be small, medium, large, extra-large or super duper tiny. Demonstrate how you can place the circles on top of each other and overlap them to make them more interesting.
2. Pass out a variety of colored paper to the students (neon paper is fun). They should draw and cut out their circles. Pass out a white sheet of paper (9 x 12") and the students should arrange their circles in an interesting composition, trying to balance them across the page and making sure to overlap some of the shapes. When satisfied with the arrangement, they can glue the circles to the white paper.
3. Using markers, add dots and other circles to the picture to create interest. Instruct the students to only draw dots and circles, but if they add other designs don't worry! They can put their own creative mark on the lesson.

It is amazing to see the variety in their interpretations of this lesson!

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Extensions/Adaptation/Tips:

- If you have the book *The Dot*, by Peter H. Reynolds, you can read this story to the children. Also, if you have prints of artworks that use dots (Aboriginal Australian, Georges Seurat) you can show these to the students. Otherwise, this is a fun stand-alone project.
- I gather circular items that the students can trace (circle templates, tin cans, masking tape rolls), because kindergarteners have trouble drawing circles.
- I have those circle paint dabbers (like the kind you use at bingo halls) that the kids use at the end of this project. You can still do this lesson if you don't have the paint dabbers. It's also fun to add paint with Q-tips. If you don't want to get out the paint dabbers with a substitute, you could have the sub do the paper and marker portion with the kids and then you could add the paint later. My students worked very slow and it took the grade Ks one whole period (40 minutes) to simply cut and paste their circles. Older kids can do the project quicker.

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View my blog for art lesson plans, photography and mixed media art.

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