Pointillism/Ben Day Dots

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Pointillism/Ben Day Dots

Age Level: 3 and up | Learning Zone: Art Garden -STEAM Activity #10
Subject: Pointillism | Lesson Duration: 15-45 minutes

WATCH THE VIDEO LESSON HERE!

Materials Needed:

- Red, blue, and yellow paint
- 4 Q-tips
- Paper

Louisiana Standards:

VA-HP-E1, VA-HP-M3, VA-CA-E1, VA-CA-E2, VA-CA-E5, VA-CE-E1, VA-CE-E2, VA-CE-E3, VA-VA-E5, VA-CE-M3VA-CE-M5,

Louisiana's Birth to 5 Early Learning & Development Standards:

AL 3, AL 4, CC 2

History or Vocabulary:

Pointillism is a technique of painting in which small, distinct dots of color are applied in patterns to form an image.

The artists Georges Seurat and Paul Signac developed the technique in 1886.

A similar technique is the Ben Day process, named after illustrator and printer Benjamin Henry Day Jr. The Ben Day process is commonly described in terms of dots or called Ben Day dots.

Depending on the effect, color and optical illusion needed, small colored dots (Ben Day dots) are closely spaced, widely spaced or overlapping. An optical illusion is something that tricks the eye by appearing to be other than it is. For example, blue and yellow may be put next to each other so when the viewer steps back it looks green. The primary colors are referred as cyan (blue), magenta (red) and yellow. Black is also used.

Comic books of the 1950s through the 1970s used Ben Day dots in the four process colors (cyan, magenta, yellow and black) to inexpensively create shading and secondary colors such as green, purple, orange, and flesh tones on the cheap paper on which they were printed. Artist Roy Lichtenstein popularized the technique.
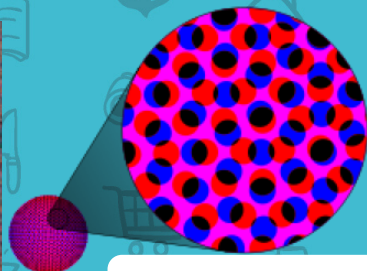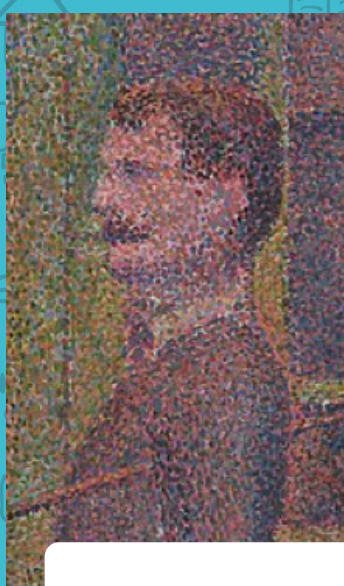
Directions:

- Take your paper and all your paints and Q-tips.
- You will have a red, blue, and yellow paints.
- You have three colors of paint, but you make up to six!
- You will use your Q-tips to dab your paint on the paper, so it looks like dots. Your Q-tip is your paint brush.
- To make purple, overlap the blue and red.
- To make green, overlap the blue and yellow.
- To make orange, overlap the red and yellow.
- Create anything you would like by painting dots.

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🟢 = 🔵 + 🟡

🟠 = 🔴 + 🟡

Examples:

I am making an apple, so I will put paint some red dots on my paper to form the shape.

To make a green stem, I will first paint with the yellow then put my blue dots on top to make green.

You can paint a person, place, animal, or even create a scene from a comic book!

George Seurat's Parade de cirque, 1889, showing the contrasting dots of paint which define Pointillism

Ben Day dots

EAT IT OR STARVE TO DEATH, YOU FOOL! WE MAY BE HERE A LONG TIME! THIS CREATURE'S GOT WHAT YOU'VE GOT!

WHAT I'VE GOT?! I DON'T UNDER-STAND!

How Ben Day dots look far away