

We hope you'll file this issue for future use!

ART

Tips and Techniques from the Master (pieces)!

Have you ever looked at a piece of art and wondered, "How did they do that?" Well, now is your chance to analyze an artist's technique ... and try it yourself! If you have a favorite artist, medium, or piece of art, you may already have your inspiration. If not, visit PPLD's Teen Zone webpage and click on HomeWork, then ART/Music. Here you will find many useful databases and websites to help you learn more about your favorite artists and pieces. Once you've chosen a piece, use the Artist's Toolkit Encyclopedia, listed under ART/MUSIC websites, and investigate the artist's use of shape, color, space, texture, and other skills. Ready to take it a step further? Now that you've explored the techniques, try to replicate them to create your own inspired original!

Snow Art : Kids getting cabin fever this winter? Try this activity for little artists!

What you need:

- ◆ Empty, "squirtable" bottles (from dish soap, shampoo, syrup, etc.)
 - ◆ Plastic containers, tubs, or boxes for snow
 - ◆ Snow!
- ◆ Food coloring in various colors
- Have each student fill their containers with snow and bring them inside. You might want to put down a plastic tarp to protect the table. Fill the bottles with tap water and add a few drops of food coloring. Start with red, yellow, and blue and introduce the concept of the primary colors first. Have each child squirt some of the water on his or her "snow canvas" so they can see the three colors. Then, ask them to squirt a little of one color on a section of the color next to it. Experiment with the secondary colors, and explain how red and blue make purple, blue and yellow make green, etc.

If you're feeling more adventurous, you can do the same thing outside. Give the kids a section of the yard to create a frozen mural with the food coloring. The color will eventually fade as the dye sinks down through the snow, so be sure to take a picture of your masterpiece!

Web Picks

Finding ideas for art class seems so simple but sometimes it's not that easy, especially if your kids have their own ideas about the types of art they want to study. So a variety of options is always a good plan. In the Homework Help section of the Kids Web on ppld.org, under the Art link, you'll find several good website options. For tutorials on portraits, still life drawings, and even pop art and perspective art, www.artfactory.com is a good choice. This website is a great option for teens. For your younger kids, the website www.iamanartist.ie is a great choice. It offers a wide range of ideas, from clay to textiles, to painting with illustrations, and helpful instructions. For a fun choice, there's always [artpad/art.com/artpad/](http://artpad.art.com/artpad/) painter with an online art pad to paint on or even www.nga.gov/kids/kids.htm from the National Gallery of Art with all sorts of interactive online art projects and ideas. Art is supposed to be fun. Have a great time experimenting!

Great Teen Books about Art!

Nonfiction

- 701.15 V984T Trick of the Eye: Art and Illusion by Silke Vry
- 760.28 L691D Digital Alchemy: Printmaking Techniques for Fine Art, Photography, and Mixed Media by Bonny Pierce Lhotka
- 736.982 J13OR Origami Zoo: 25 fun paper animal creations by Paul Jackson
- 364.162 A524S Stealing Rembrandts: The Untold Stories of Notorious Art Heists by Anthony M. Amore
- 709 J35H History of Art for Young People by H. W. Janson

Fiction

- The Fine Art of Truth or Dare by Kathleen Benner Duble
- Radiant Days: A Novel by Elizabeth Hand
- Tokyo Heist by Diana Renn
- See What I See by Gloria Whelan
- My Not-So-Still Life by Liz Gallagher

"Artsy" Reads for Kids

J-Easy (picture books)

- I Ain't Gonna Paint No More! by Karen Beaumont
- Library Mouse: A Museum Adventure by Daniel Kirk
- Micawber by John Lithgow
- Bear's Picture by Daniel Pinkwater
- Sky Color by Peter H. Reynolds
- Look! Look! Look! by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace
- Art & Max by David Wiesner
- Mousterpiece by Jane Breskin Zalben

J-Fiction

- Matisse on the Loose: A Novel by Georgia Bragg
- Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett
- The Red Blazer Girls: The Mistaken Masterpiece by Michael Bell
- Masterpiece by Elise Broach
- A Nest for Celeste: A Story about Art, Inspiration, and the Meaning of Home by Henry Cole
- Bettina Valentino and the Picasso Club by Niki Daly
- The Seven Keys of Balabad by Paul Haven
- From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E. L. Konigsburg
- The Sixty-Eight Rooms by Marianne Malone

Tell us what you think! We welcome topical ideas to enhance your educational endeavors. Contact gsohns@ppld.org.



Experience Art

Get your creativity going this winter with some great artistic experiences right here in the Pikes Peak region.

You can visit the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center to view fine artwork or theater productions (www.csfineartscenter.org). The Denver Art Museum is housing a special exhibit titled "Becoming Van Gogh," and will be having special artist demonstrations, family tours, and art-making stations during Winter Break (www.denverartmuseum.org/exhibitions).

Want to get into the act yourself? No problem! The Library has tons of books to help you draw or paint your own masterpieces. Just go to the 741 - 743s in the nonfiction section for drawing or the 751s for painting. You can use Library resources to learn some new skills or just get a pencil or a brush and let your imagination run wild. You can even enter your works in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, a prestigious national art competition for students (www.artandwriting.org).

And don't forget that art has many different forms. If drawing and painting don't appeal to your family, try some theater. Go to see a live production or make one of your own. For those students who are theatrically inclined, try the Library's Teen Improv Group at East Library or the Ruth Holley Library Teen Improv Workshop (ppld.org/programs-and-events-teens). There are a million ways to make your art studies come alive. All you need is a little inspiration!

To contact PPLD's Homeschool Committee, please email gsohns@ppld.org.

The BookShelf new

Annie Sullivan and the Trials of Helen Keller by Joseph Lambert (2012)

This new graphic biographical novel tells Annie Sullivan's life story, and she had a difficult life. The story tells how she worked with Helen Keller and the breakthroughs she made.

Add *Helen's Eyes: A Photobiography of Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's Teacher* (2008) to make this remarkable story even more real. History, biography – ages 10 - 15



Annie Sullivan
1866 - 1936



Maria Anna Mozart
1751 - 1829

For the Love of Music: The Remarkable Story of Maria Anna Mozart by Elizabeth Rusch (2011)

Easy to read, but as complex as the sonata upon which this book is modeled, this is really the story of Wolfgang Mozart's sister. The two traveled together, performing in Europe for three years, but women were not favored as musicians, and at some point, Maria had to stay home. Wolfgang thought her compositions, and her music superb, but none of it has been found. Read the notes at the front of the book before reading the book!

Music history, biography – ages 8 - 12

Rachel Carson and Her Book That Changed the World by Laurie Lawlor (2012)

Rachel Carson began working in the field of biology before there were many women involved in science, which did not slow her in the least. Her mother taught her much in the "natural history" areas, including stars, constellations, and birdsongs. Environmental science, biography – ages 7 - 12



Rachel Carson
1907 - 1964



Susan B. Anthony
1821 - 1906

Susan B. Anthony by Alexandra Wallner (2012)

Women born in the 1800s had few choices when they grew up; they could marry or become teachers. Susan B. Anthony was educated because her family valued it – few women of the time had that opportunity. Susan saw other inequalities between men and women, and it became her life's work to advocate for a woman's right to vote. Fourteen years after her death, the 19th Amendment was passed, giving women the constitutional right to vote.

American history, biography – ages 8 - 12

Write On, Mercy! The Secret Life of Mercy Otis Warren by Gretchen Woelfle

Mercy Otis also had a father who valued education, and she married a man who admired her being so "smart." Mercy had five children, and wrote poetry when her children were asleep. She wrote for the cause of the American Revolution, but did not reveal that she was the author. But she wanted more, and wrote a history of the American Revolution that took her 30 years to complete. To this final work, she did sign her name.

American history, biography – ages 8 - 12



Mercy Otis Warren
1728 - 1814

Little-Known Secrets

Study the Arts with PPLD

Discover a world of art through PPLD Kids Web! It is a place to begin the excitement and discovery of many fascinating areas. Inside Kids Web, home educators may access thorough lessons for hundreds of subjects including the fine arts. A great way to start is by asking questions!



Would you like to know what female artist painted her older sister and small children? What does tone, tint, and shade have to do with color? Are you decorating your room and want to know the complimentary color to purple? Look at Kids Web to find the answers!

To find resources and get started, simply access the PPLD website at ppld.org and on the main page find Kids Web on the right-hand bar. Click the icon, then click Explore the Web inside the postcard. Go to Awesome Library and access The Arts. Twenty entries from Architecture to Theater enable the parent/teacher to build an amazing experience for the students in her homeschool.

Perhaps the home educator would like books to enhance an art subject. Simply click on Kids Web then access Book Ideas in the postcard and choose your subject or venue to allow any age student to benefit from books on or about art. To encourage your budding artist, read and discover the Caldecott Medal Award-winning titles! This award is given annually by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children. More fantastic art ideas may be found in Homework Help. Just click on Art and a complete list of lesson plans and websites appear for the arts!

Kids Web is an incredible resource for any parent but especially the home teacher. Peruse the Kids Web, do not keep it a secret, and enjoy investigating the many areas of discovery with your children!

Homeschool Programs

Lunch Bunch

There's a different family learning experience every time. Enjoy your sack lunch while socializing with other homeschooling families after the program.

1st Wed. of each month
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Fountain Library
(Contact Jessica at jfreeland@ppld.org for more information)

4th Wed. of each month
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
High Prairie Library
(Contact Becky at bcampbell@ppld.org for information, or call 260-3650 to register.)

Rockrimmon

Family Study Time

Looking for a wonderful opportunity to study with your entire family and other homeschool families?

Watch for the new 2013 Homeschool Family Study Time at Rockrimmon Library! Come visit and study with other home educators. Each month a new subject will be highlighted with PPLD resources available. Staff member Tina Lewis will be available to answer your questions about how PPLD can serve your homeschool needs. This is a specific time for each family to study using the Rockrimmon Meeting Room. Look for additional information on the PPLD Homeschool Hub at ppld.org. Every 3rd Thu., Jan. - Oct. 2013
1 - 3 p.m.

Science Lab

Use PPLD's science equipment for parent-assigned experiments. Watch for news about occasional special lessons planned during lab time. Contact Gail at gsohns@ppld.org for more information.

1st and 3rd Fri. of the month
1 - 3 p.m. ♦ East Library

Novel Ideas

Join other homeschooled teens for a snack and discussion on a great book! Contact Molly at mpace@ppld.org, or 531-6333, x2338 for the month's book title.

Last Wed. of the month
2 - 3:30 p.m.
Penrose Library

6th Annual Art Show

It's time to get your creative juices flowing! Homeschooled students of all ages can submit one drawing, painting, photo, sculpture, etc. during the last week of March 2013 to the Children's Department at East Library. All artwork will be on display during the entire month of April and we'll end with a reception for friends and family. Watch for more information as we get closer to March. The art show will not be juried.

Other Events & Programs

TArt Teen Art Competition and Show

TArt is a teen art competition for teens in 6th - 12th grades. Works are juried by members of PPLD's Teen Advisory Groups and awards given for 1st, 2nd, and Coordinator's Choice in high school and middle school divisions, as well as a Best of Show award. The pieces will form an art show displayed at East and Penrose libraries for the month of April.

This year's theme is Fantastical Faire and submissions can be dropped off on March 11 or 12 at the Penrose, East, High Prairie, Fountain, Ruth Holley, or Monument libraries. For guidelines and submission forms, visit the Library's Teen site at ppld.org/teens. You can contact Molly Pace at mpace@ppld.org or 531-6333, x2338 with any questions.



Computer Language Learning for Kids at Rockrimmon Library

December is Learn A Foreign Language Month, and one of the most widely used languages in the world today isn't even spoken. Dip your toe in the waters of computer languages by dropping in on the Rockrimmon Library Sat., Dec. 8, 2 - 4 p.m. to experiment with Scratch, a very simplified

programming language for telling stories, making games, and having fun. Appropriate for children as young as early elementary school, with parental participation, but fun for anyone with an interest!

Knitting Kninjas

Ages 12 - 18 only! Beginners and experts welcome. We have yarn and needles to lend out, but please feel free to bring your own projects too!

1st and 3rd Thu. of the month
4 - 5 p.m.
East Teen Center
East Library

Study Buddies

Come join this free, drop-in program. Teen volunteers help students in kindergarten through fifth grade with homework or reading practice. This program runs through May 2, 2013.

Tuesdays ♦ 6:30 - 8 p.m.
East Library
Call 531-6333, x1407 or x1403 for more information.

Thursdays ♦ 4 - 5:30 p.m.
High Prairie Library ♦ 260-3650

Featured Homeschool Family: The Vanaman Family

How old are your children?

We have five children. Our oldest daughter is 19 and a student at UCCS. Our second daughter is 16, a student at PPCC and a homeschool high school student. Our oldest son is almost 11 in 7th grade and completely homeschooled. Our second son is 8 and in 3rd grade and our youngest is 5 years old and a kindergartner, both completely homeschooled.

Why did you decide to homeschool?

We were living in Denver when my oldest reached school age. We had not heard of homeschooling at that time. A cousin brought us information about homeschooling from the Christian Home Educators of Colorado (CHEC) Fair one June and we were hooked. We said that we would homeschool until they were ready to handle public school. Well, we decided over time we would homeschool them all the way through high school. And we have successfully done this with two so far.

What curriculum do you use?

We started with a boxed curriculum called Abeka and moved over into using many different curricula. We still use a lot of textbooks to learn because it is easiest for us to teach. Jenny has found that if she understands how the curriculum is teaching, she can teach it. We use a different publisher for nearly every subject and the Library book lists for reading and literature.



What does your homeschool day look like?

A typical homeschool day starts around 7:30. Jenny teaches our 8-year-old first. He is highly distracted and an early riser in the morning, so she teaches him uninterrupted for a time and when the others have prepared their school area, she teaches the rest together, except our high school student. We do her home lessons around her college schedule. After school it is chores and then by 3:30 our sports begin.

How do you incorporate outside activities or sports into your homeschool?

We have been involved with a local enrichment program for 12 years. Over time, our kids have taken many great classes there. They have taken classes in art, ballet, history, and karate. We used a private instructor for judo for many years. Now, our boys have begun playing sports for parks and recreation, in addition to the local middle school. The oldest boy plays football, wrestling, and baseball. Our second son plays football and baseball. And the youngest boy will start t-ball next year. We are very busy.

What are your children's interests and future goals?

Our oldest daughter is a junior at UCCS majoring in human biology. She wants to be a doctor. Our second daughter wants to minor in English and is exploring options for her major. Our oldest son is excellent in math and science and wants to play professional sports. Our second son is excellent in science and math also. He wants to be an engineer. Our 5-year-old is a bundle of energy.

Would you like to be a Featured Family? Contact Gail at gsohns@ppld.org.