



Stylish sloths



VA:Cr2.1.4a

Explore and invent art-making techniques and approaches.

VA:Cr2.2.4a

When making works of art, utilize and care for materials, tools, and equipment in a manner that prevents danger to oneself and others.

VA:Re8.1.4a

Interpret art by referring to contextual information and analyzing relevant subject matter, characteristics of form, and use of media.

Objectives

Students will...

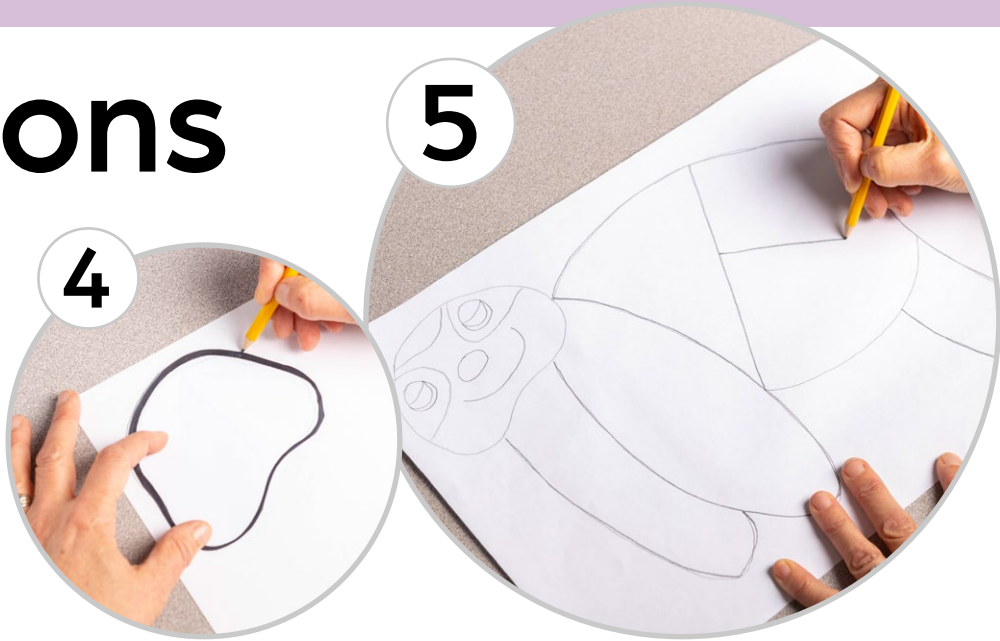
- Become familiar with and identify the style and works of Romero Britto
- Create a sloth in the style of Romero Britto
- Learn two facts about sloths
- Apply drawing techniques using shapes, lines, and color to design a sloth
- Apply pattern and painting techniques
- Learn collage and mixed media techniques

Introduction

Romero Britto is a Brazilian artist known for using bright colors and bold patterns to depict happiness and hope. His art style is a combination of pop art and cubism. A pop artist creates art with popular images or everyday items using simple shapes and vibrant colors. Cubism is a style of art that shows various viewpoints of an object all at once, broken down into geometric shapes.

Instructions

1. Introduce Romero Britto and his style of work through images. Discuss the main characteristics found in his work: bright colors, simple shapes, and bold patterns. Review pop art and cubism through images and discuss how those styles have influenced his style of creating art.
2. Sloths are a popular animal with both children and adults. Display images of sloths in their natural environment. Note a few fun facts about sloths, such as sloths sleep up to 20 hours a day and sloths are native to the tropical forests of Central and South America.
3. Cut 12" x 18" pieces of white drawing paper down to 11" x 16". Students will be drawing their sloth all the way to the edges on this paper and then cutting it out to glue onto another 12" x 18" piece of paper later. This size paper also allows for some background details to be visible later.
4. Create head templates for students to trace, or based on their drawing ability, you can let them draw the sloth's head themselves. The head helps dictate the size of the sloth drawing. A reproducible head template can be found on the last page of this lesson plan.



5. On their 11" x 16" white paper, instruct students to draw the body as if the sloth is laying on the branch (sloths can be glued upside down to look like they're hanging off the branch later). Students should draw edge of the paper for their ending points. Begin by tracing the head of the sloth in the left corner, close to the edge. This is done so the whole body, including the legs of the sloth, can fit on the paper. Next, draw the body taking up as much of the white paper as possible. Starting at the head, draw a slightly curved line going to the edge of the paper, stopping at the middle on the right side. For the legs, draw a slightly diagonal line touching the bottom of the paper then back up to the back of the sloth, reminding students to not draw skinny legs and allow room to paint in. Continue with the front legs, then close the shape by drawing a horizontal line between the front and back leg for the belly. Draw the body without the feet to allow for more leg space. The feet will be done later with paper once students start to assemble all the pieces. Draw two or three lines in the body to break up the space and allow for creating patterns.
6. Refer to Britto's style of painting and review patterns and painting techniques.

7. Start painting! Have students use a smaller brush so they can create lines and patterns with more ease. Depending on the student's painting ability and the size of the drawing, they can either paint all patterns directly in the given spaces or paint each space with one color, let it dry, then paint patterns over the solid painted area. When pattern painting is complete, outline the head, body, legs, and pattern blocks with black paint.
8. Let the sloths dry, then cut the them out.
9. For the background, have students pick a colored sheet of 12" x 18" paper. Prepare each table with various materials that can be used to create the sloth's branch and the rest of the environment, including colored paper, tissue paper, sequins, and brown paper.
10. Students can have the sloth laying on the branch or hanging upside down. Show students how to create these positions and allow them to explore on their own. If they choose to have the sloth lie down on the branch, students will need to cut a slit between the two front legs so that the head can rest on, or at least get a bit closer to, the branch. Tell students to start by gluing the head and body of the sloth on the paper, then carefully placing the branch in between the legs and gluing the branch and legs last.
11. Demonstrate how to use various materials to create an environment. Review how to fold paper to cut multiples and how to twist, crunch, and cut tissue paper. For the claws, demonstrate how to fold a 4½" x 6" black paper, draw the claws, and cut.
12. Students will finish up by cutting, arranging, and gluing all pieces and embellishments.



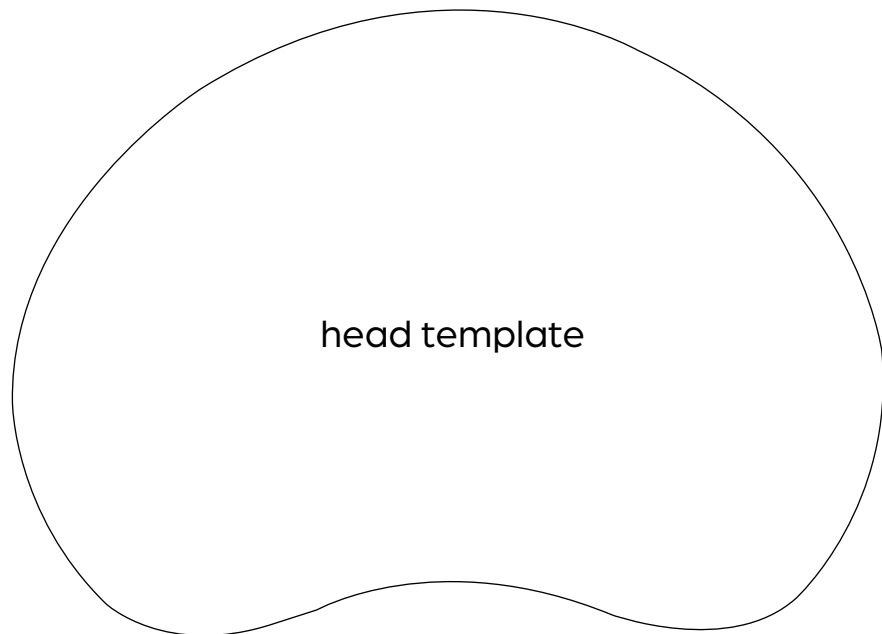
Variations

Sloth

- Once the body has been broken into shapes, paint those spaces with one color, let it dry, draw patterns on the painted areas with oil pastels or crayons.
- Use tempera paint sticks to fill in spaces with patterns and color instead of tempera paint.
- Use oil pastels (original pack or fluorescent colors) to fill in spaces with patterns and color.
- Use black a Sharpie® to outline body shapes. Use oil pastels or crayons for patterns and then watercolors on top.
- Use crayons to fill in the spaces with patterns and color.

Background

- Use crayons, oil pastels, tempera, or watercolors to draw the environment.
- Paint the background leaves and details with tempera paint on colored paper or watercolor paint on watercolor paper.
- Create oil pastel or crayon watercolor resist backgrounds on white multimedia paper.
- Draw the sloth and background all on one paper, so there's no cutting or gluing.



Materials list

- Tempera paint (9705920A-L)
- Brushes (9741810)
- 12" x 18" drawing paper (9728258)
- Construction paper (9742172)
- Tissue paper (9701231)
- Sequins [0500433(J)]
- Glue (1100270)
- Scissors (9732588)
- Head template (create your own or use above)

Additional optional materials

- Yarn (9736961)
- Nasco Leaf Stamp Set (9714351)

Resources

- Sloth images: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/sloth/>
- Romero Britto artwork images: <https://www.shopbritto.com/>

