



Lesson: Shape Composition Game

Ages: 5-18

Projected time: **15-20 min**

Supplies needed: Pencil, paper, a timer, and markers, crayons, colored pencils, or paint.

Project Intro: Drawing can be so much fun! Here is a game to get your drawing muscles moving, and your creative imaginations flowing. You can do this in combination with as many other drawing games as you want. Repeat daily with different results every time!

Artist or Medium Reference: Alexandra Exter (1882-1949) was a Russian painter, designer and stage designer who was part of the Modern Cubo-Futurist art movement. Her 1916 painting called Composition (image 1) is a good example of Cubism, a geometric art form.

Vocabulary:

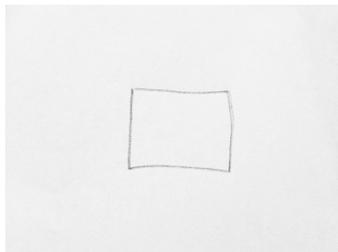
A composition is the way things are arranged in a picture.

Geometric Shapes are shapes found in math and usually use straight lines.

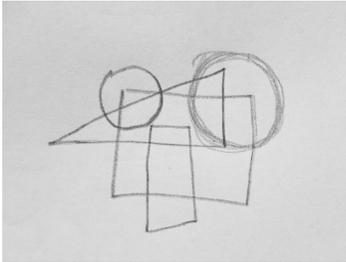
Cubism is an art movement from the early 20th century in which artists focused on using geometric shapes, usually with painting.

Project steps:

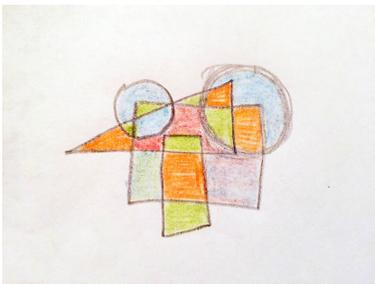
Step 1. List geometric shapes aloud. You can choose any kind of geometric shape you want! Some examples include: Square, Circle, Rectangle, Triangle, Star, Octagon. For a more active version of this game you can also draw shapes on paper and put them around a room (I usually use desks)... people can then go around to each shape and add it to their compositions (a timer helps to make this more like a gameshow or challenge).



Step 2: Each time a shape is called out draw the shape touching or overlapping the other shapes on one piece of paper.



Step 3: After all shapes are called out color them in or make them into something (An animal or plant? A person?). Change colors where the shapes overlap, and if you have lots of colors this can include color mixing in the game. For example a red circle and yellow square would be orange where they overlap. You can color these drawings in with anything (colored pencils, crayons or paint).



This example uses colored pencils.



Here's a student example that was colored in with watercolor paint.



Alexandra Exter, *Composition*, 1916