

Snowflake Painting

Objective: Students will create a unique, mandala-style snowflake painting.

Topics & Keywords for Discussion:

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

Materials: Multi-media or water color paper, blue tempera paint, white tempera OR acrylic paint, thinned white glue (half glue, half water), paintbrushes and q-tips, glitter.

Opening activity: Ask students to answer the riddle: how are snowflakes just like you and me? Lead a discussion with students about how special and unique each snowflake is from the next- just like people! Invite students to share, one at a time, 2 qualities that make them different from anyone else in their family.

Core Activity: First, paint the background of the painting: broad brushstrokes in 3 shades of blue. Create a palette with at least 3 different shades of blue: a light blue, a dark blue and an aqua blue. NOTE: review with students what colors to mix to create these 3 shades. When creating the background, you want to apply your brushstrokes always in the same direction: vertically/up & down. Start with the darker blue on the center of the paper, then add the aqua blue and lighter blue around the outside. Let the background dry, and prepare to paint your snowflake using pointillism. Snowflakes generally have 6 sides, start by drawing tiny triangle and then begin making your dots out from the points of the triangle AND each of the three sides. Or you might want to start with one medium sized circle and add smaller circles around it, and moving outward from the center in six directions. The process of drawing these snowflakes with paint is to create symmetry- just like making a mandala, what they create on one side they should create on all sides symmetrically around the snowflake. As the white paint is drying, add a layer of thinned white glue over the white paint and sprinkle on some glitter!

Reflection: Have students compare their mandala paintings and notice how, just like snowflakes, no TWO are exactly identical.

