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# Exploring Eric Carle's Painted Collage

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## Personal Inspiration

I have always loved the work of children's book illustrator and author, Eric Carle. While working at a nursery school in high school and college, reading his books with young children was a favorite part of my day. I am interested in the role of picture books in the development in a child's sense of narrative, as well as their literacy development. Many of my students come from troubled family situations and have rarely been read to. I developed this lesson to combine my own love for collages made in the style of Eric Carle and my interest in sharing children's books with my students who may not have ever been exposed to these stories. I specifically use Carle's book, *The Blue Horse*, to help students understand how some artists are inspired by the work of another artist.

## Overview

Students will be introduced to the artist and children's book author, Eric Carle. Students will create vibrant pallets of paper for communal use in the creation of collage images. Individually, students will create their own unique images; topics and themes are endless for this exploration of material.

## Objectives

- Students will recall and identify books by Eric Carle.
- Students will understand the meaning of the term collage.
- Students will evaluate the role that Franz Marc's painting played in the creation of Eric Carle's book.
- Students will apply understanding of color theory and texture to create a pallet of painted paper for use in collage.
- Students will create a collaged image in the style of Eric Carle representing a personal interest, theme, narrative, or topic.

## Big Ideas/Enduring Understandings

- Artists are often inspired by the work of other artists.
- Images can be produced using a variety of techniques.
- Experiences from childhood can impact your creative process even as an adult.
- Images contain narrative information for the viewer.

## NJ Core Content Curriculum Standards

- 1.1.8.D.1
- 1.1.8.D.2
- 1.2.8.A.3
- 1.3.3.D.1
- 1.3.8.D.2
- 1.3.8.D.3
- 1.3.8.D.5
- 1.3.8.D.6
- 1.4.8.A.1
- 1.4.8.A.3
- 1.4.8.B.1

## Materials

- Laptop/computer/flash drive
- LCD Projector & Screen
- Books by Eric Carle: *The blue horse*, *The hungry caterpillar*, *Shine*
- Poster "The Blue Horse" by Franz Marc
- 18x24" paper suitable for paint
- Tempera paint
- Brushes
- Sketch paper
- Tag board or other sturdy surface – size is optional
- Tracing paper
- Sharpie Marker
- Pencils
- Glue/Glue Sticks
- Scissors

## Activities

### Day One:

Use PowerPoint presentation to introduce students to the work of Eric Carle. Focus on the inspiration Carle found in work by the famous artist, Franz Marc. Show video of Carle discussing the book. Discuss the impact of childhood experiences on future creativity. Instruct students to brainstorm and sketch ideas, topics, and themes they would like to explore using collage in the style of Eric Carle.

### Day Two and Three:

Demonstrate free painting techniques for students. Emphasize broad strokes and free body movement. Review color mixing guidelines to encourage students to make a useful pallet. Give options for creating texture and encourage students to explore their own techniques for texture creations. Demonstrate “printing” of papers by hand burnishing. Students should create about 4 sheets of paper by the end of the painting sessions.

Monitor and assist students with painting. Keep class informed of time and provide structure for clean-up.

### Day Four:

Students will transfer sketch ideas onto tag board. Remind students to keep objects and details slightly larger for ease of collage.

### Day Five:

Demonstrate techniques for creating an image in collage. Options include using tracing paper to create a puzzle-like process and using a free/layered approach. Emphasize the importance of gluing all edges of the painted paper to the backing surface.

Assist students as they begin to build their collage.

### Day Six through Ten:

Provide students with assistance as needed to complete their artwork. Encourage students to fill all open space with painted paper to avoid any “holidays” in the work. Use examples to encourage students to create value changes in their work by layering subtle color changes in the piece.

As students complete the lesson, distribute self-assessment and artist’s statement.

## Resources



Little Blue Horse, 1912  
by Franz Marc



Blue Horse I, 1911  
Franz Marc



Blue Horse, 1911  
Franz Marc

Simple Lesson Plan, see page 4

PowerPoint Presentation, see page 5-8

## Adaptations

Glue sticks and adaptive scissors will be provided for students who have difficulty with fine motor skills.

Leftover painted paper from previous classes will be available for use by students who do not create enough paper due to ability or absence.

Terms will be provided in both written and spoken format to address the needs of students with processing differences.

A list of tasks will be written on the board for students with ADHD to assist with focusing on and completing tasks.

Students with difficulty drawing due to various learning disabilities will be given the option to use a printed image for the design.

Early finishers will be given the opportunity to make an additional collage or assist classmates with the cutting and tracing of collage elements.

## Writing Prompts and Self-Evaluation

Describe the techniques of Eric Carle which you utilized to create your image.

Explain the image you created.

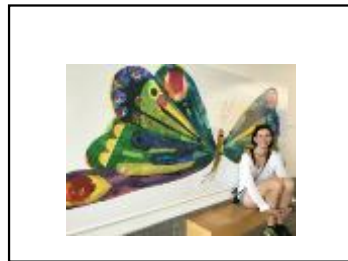
If your image represents a narrative, please describe the story you are telling.

If you could make any changes to your artwork, what would they be and why?

	Advanced	Proficient	Needs Improvement
Use of Eric Carle's style and technique to create a personal artwork	Student creates and combines a wide variety of textural painted papers in the creation of a visually appealing piece of art.	Student creates and combines painted papers to create a collage.	Student does not utilize the collage techniques of Eric Carle to create a piece of art.
Image content and quality	Student creates an image which is thoughtful and has personal meaning.	Student creates an image that demonstrates acceptable representational qualities.	Student work does not demonstrate acceptable level of representational skill.
Craftsmanship and work ethic	Student uses materials to create a successful image that is neat and fully covered with collaged papers. All class time is spent on task.	Student uses materials to create an image that is mostly covered with collaged papers. Time is spent on task.	Student requires assistance with the use of materials and could use the time provided more effectively to create a collage.

<b>Lesson Title:</b>	Eric Carle Inspired Collage					
<b>Grade:</b>	8 Elective	<b>Start Date:</b>		<b>End Date:</b>		
<b>2009 NJ Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards</b>					<b>Best Practice:</b>	
<b>Creative Process</b>	<b>History &amp; Culture</b>	<b>Performance</b>	<b>Aesthetic &amp; Critique</b>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1.1.8.D.1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1.2.8.A.1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1.3.8.D.1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1.4.8.A.1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1.4.8.B.1		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Differentiation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1.1.8.D.2	<input type="checkbox"/> 1.2.8.A.2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1.3.8.D.2	<input type="checkbox"/> 1.4.8.A.2	<input type="checkbox"/> 1.4.8.B.2		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technology Use
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1.2.8.A.3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1.3.8.D.3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1.4.8.A.3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1.4.8.B.3		<input type="checkbox"/> Assessment
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1.3.8.D.4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1.4.8.A.4			<input type="checkbox"/> Character Education
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1.3.8.D.5	<input type="checkbox"/> 1.4.8.A.5			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grouping Strategies
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1.3.8.D.6	<input type="checkbox"/> 1.4.8.A.6			<input type="checkbox"/> Use of Data
			<input type="checkbox"/> 1.4.8.A.7			
<b>OBJECTIVES:</b>						
<b>The learner will demonstrate the ability to:</b>						
<b>Create</b>	A layered collage inspired by the work of children's illustrator, Eric Carle					
<b>Evaluate</b>	Different textural qualities in painted paper to be applied to a collage					
<b>Analyze</b>	The success of different methods for collage creation – layering vs puzzle					
<b>Apply</b>	Eric Carle's technique for paper production					
<b>Understand</b>	The role of texture and color in the work of Eric Carle					
<b>Remember</b>	The title of one book by the author					
<b>MATERIALS</b>						
PPT, videos	Tempera paint Brushes Water/towels	Large paper Tag board Tracing paper	Glue Scissors	Images for inspiration	Sharpie, pencils	
<b>TEACHER ACTIVITIES</b>			<b>STUDENTS ACTIVITIES</b>			
<p>Day 1: Present power point with examples of collages created in this style. View video interviews with Eric Carle discussing his techniques.</p> <p>Day 2: Demonstrate paper production. Monitor and assist students as needed.</p> <p>Day 3: Continue with paper production</p> <p>Day 4: Distribute tag board for final collage. Assist students as needed.</p> <p>Day 5: Distribute tracing paper. Demonstrate technique for creating collage. Monitor and assist students as needed.</p> <p>Day 6-10: Monitor and assist students with production of collage.</p>			<p>Day 1: Participate in discussion of Eric Carle. Search for sample images to work from.</p> <p>Day2-3: Paint paper to meet the needs of planned collage. Utilize a variety of colors and textures</p> <p>Day 4: Begin good copy of collage image on tag board.</p> <p>Day 5: Trace image, begin to create collage.</p> <p>Day 6-10: Work to complete collage.</p>			
<b>EVALUATION:</b>						
<b>Student work will demonstrate:</b>						
<b>Creativity</b>						
<b>Craftsmanship</b>						
<b>Work Ethic</b>						
<b>Artist Statement</b>	<i>See Rubric Above</i>					

Eric Carle: Inspired by fine art; inspiring your art

Blue Horse, 1911  
Franz Marc




Little Blue Horse, 1912  
Franz Marc



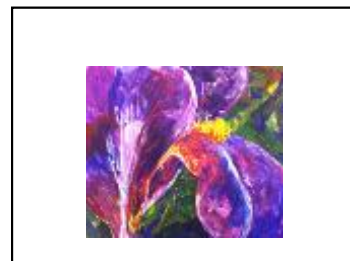
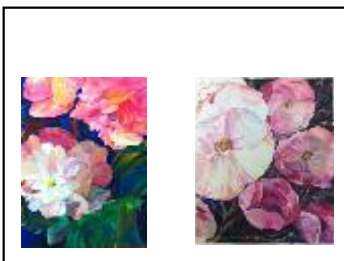
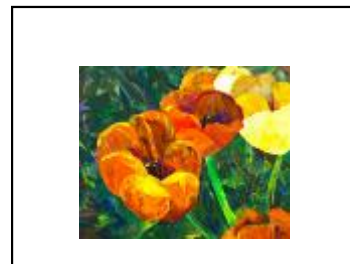
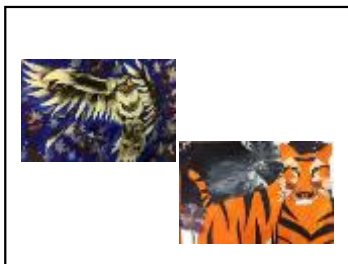
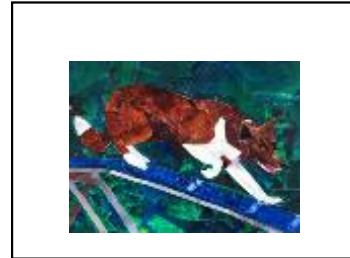

Steps

- Develop an image to be treated using collage
  - Sketch first
  - Outline only for good copy
- Create a palette of paper
  - Consider textures and patterns that will enhance your collage
  - Consider colors
    - Include value changes to increase the realism of your collage image
    - Create more than you think you will need

Possibilities



- Images with texture variations
  - Flower close-ups
  - Animals

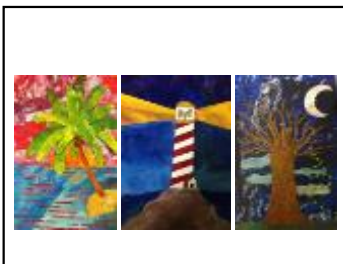
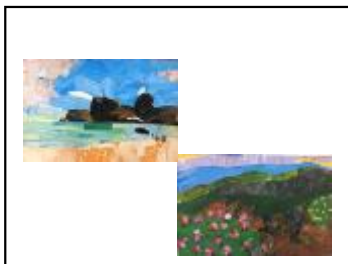






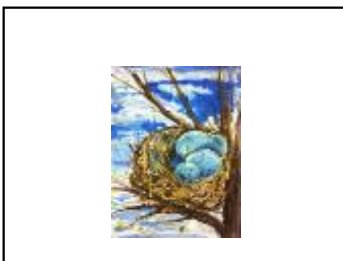
Environments

- Underwater scenes
- Outer space scenes
- Landscapes



Symbolic Imagery

- Tell a story with one image
- Represent a feeling/emotional state symbolically



Characters/Imaginary creatures

- Dragons
- Fairies
- Mythical Figures

