

Artists' Celebration Cakes



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Connect with and celebrate artists with a faux cake designed to honor their contributions.

World Art Day is celebrated on April 15th every year, coinciding with famed artist Leonardo Da Vinci's birthday. It was established by the International Association of Art to affirm the importance of art and honor the contributions of artists. It's a global celebration and a chance to learn, be creative, and be part of the diverse spectrum of art and artists - past, present, and future!

The relevance of art and artists to society is undeniable: they reflect the human experience, showing us our history and the richness of our different cultures. They call attention to the questions we all have and inspire critical thinking. They enrich our lives with beautiful things.

Artists impact all of us in a broad sense; but what would happen if we stopped to consider the ways they affect us personally?

This lesson is more than just enjoying an artist's style or appreciating an example of their work. It is a means of making a special connection. with an artist and celebrating their accomplishments.

To start, make a list of renowned artists, not simply based on fame or popularity, but on their contributions and achievements. For instance:

- Leonardo Da Vinci bridged the gap between art and many areas of science.
- Marcel Duchamp made us question whether art had to be beautiful.
- Frida Kahlo helped us express our true identities through art.
- Alma Thomas paved the way for African American women to be recognized as leaders in art.

With a list of choices, students can research and learn about who these artists were, what they achieved, and how they connect to them personally. They might admire their bravery in doing something new, their inventiveness in rethinking art, or their choice of subject matter or message.

After connecting with an artist, students can honor them by designing a special faux cupcake in their tribute. Historically, cake is synonymous with special events and celebrations worldwide, and cake creation is an art form in itself. This non-edible cupcake will serve as a long-lasting sculptural tribute that can be displayed for World Art Day—or simply as a way to say "thank you" to artists for their contributions.

Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.



Required Materials

Blick Watercolor Paper, 140 lb, cold press, 15" x 22" (10008-1028); share one sheet between four students

Kunin Classic Felt Sheets, 9" x 12", choice of colors (65301-); share one sheet between six students

Liquitex Basics Modeling Paste, Light, 8-1/2 oz (00775-1905); share three across class

Elmer's Glue-All, 7.63 oz (23887-1007); share one bottle between two students

Westcott Soft Handle Scissors Teacher Pack, set of 12, pointed (58477-1105); need one per student

Faber-Castell Triangular Colored EcoPencils, class pack of 252 (82703-2529); share between class

Caran d'Ache Swisscolor Aquarelle Markers, classpack of 100 (82165-1039); share one across class

Optional Materials:

DecoArt Love Color Frosting Acrylic, 8 oz (09455-1000)

Materials for Decorating Cupcakes, including:

Blick Premium Construction Paper, 80 lb, choice of colors (11409-)

Roylco All Kinds of Fabric Paper, 5-1/2" x 8-1/2", 200 sheet pkg (12651-1058)

Pepperell Cora's Cotton Craft Cord, choice of colors and thicknesses (65285-)

Smart-Fab Fabric Sheets, 9" x 12", pkg of 270 assorted colors (62130-1023)

Krafty Kids Mini Colored Craft Sticks, 1/4" x 2-1/8", pkg of 150 (80914-1001)

Ready to order materials?

Go to www.DickBlick.com/lesson-plans/artists-celebration-cakes to access a product bundle for your convenience.

Preparation:

1. Cut watercolor paper into 7-1/2" x 11" pieces.
2. Cut felt into 4" x 4.5" pieces.
3. Select an artist and research their role in art history. Here are a few questions to ask to help learn about an artist's contributions:

Did they do something different that no one else had done before?

Did they make it easier for others to become artists?

Did their work make people think about something? (ideas, events, feelings, etc)

How is this artist like/unlike you?

Any artist can be chosen for this lesson, from the unknown artist(s) that painted the cave walls at Lascaux to contemporary artists.

Focus on learning about their lives, ideas and accomplishments, not just images of their work.

Process:

1. Use the templates on page 3 to cut a liner and cake board from watercolor paper. Cut out shapes, one per student, saving the scraps of paper to make a cake topper.
2. Design the liner first. Use images, words, colors, textures, and materials that refer to the artist. Keep in mind, **it doesn't need to look like their work**. It just needs to be something they would like, something that is made just for them.

Designs can be made with markers, colored pencils, paint, or collage. Only one side of the liner needs to be designed.

3. Join ends of the liner to make a cup shape. Glue in place and hold together with a paper clip until glue is dry. Or, for a faster join, staple ends together. Make sure cup stands upright without wobbling.
4. Fill liner to make faux "cake". Use scrap paper, bubble wrap, or fabric scraps to form a tight ball about 2" in diameter. Secure with masking tape. Cover the ball with felt piece. Apply glue to the inside of the liner and insert the ball, making sure it fits snugly and felt edges are tucked down into the cup.
5. Apply glue to the center of the cake board (the circle of heavy paper). Press the bottom of the ball and the open end of the liner down onto the glue so that the cupcake is standing upright. Allow time for the glue to grab before proceeding.
6. Design the cake board, as in step 2. Additional papers can be applied to the cake board to extend it, if desired.
7. "Frost" the cupcake using Frosting Medium or Modeling Paste. For colorful frosting, mix tempera paint colors with the medium prior to application. It can also be painted after it is dry. Use a plastic knife or painting knife to spread in the center of the cupcake, leaving felt visible around the edges.

Beads, gemstones, yarn, and other objects can be pressed into the medium before it dries and it will act like glue to secure them.



Step 1: Cut liner and cake board from watercolor paper and design for selected artist. Form cup by joining ends of liner.



Step 2: Fill liner with a ball made of scraps, covered with felt. Glue into cup.

Step 3: "Frost" cupcake. Design a cake topper to celebrate the contributions of the selected artist.



Ready to order materials?

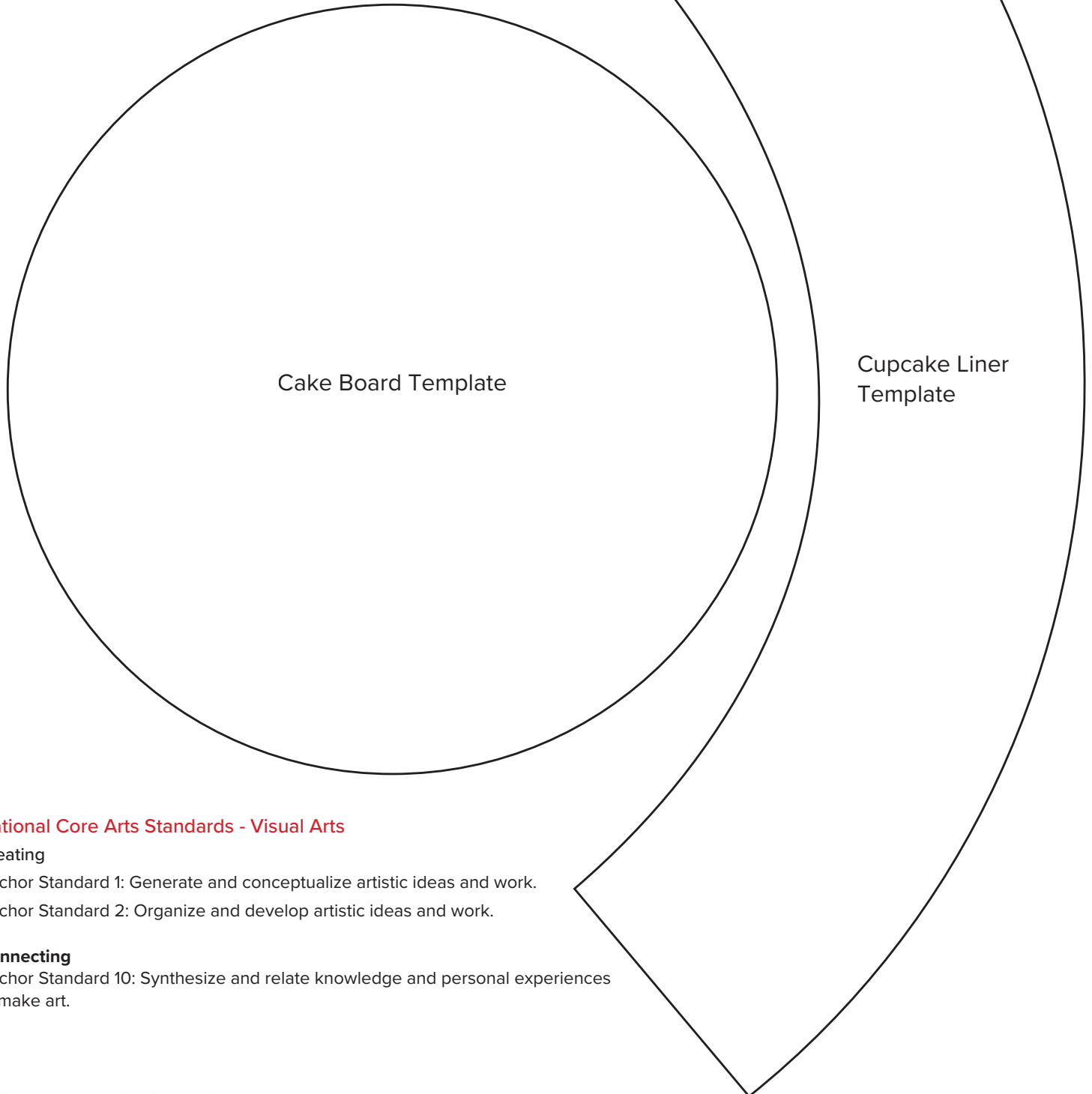
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Process, continued

8. While frosting dries, create a cake topper to complete the artist's cupcake. This can be glued on after the frosting dries, or attached with wire or a toothpick inserted between the felt and the cupcake liner.
9. Display a group of Artist's Celebration Cakes on a cupcake stand along with a card that lists bullet points about the artist. Viewers will be able to read the card and understand the importance of the artist's contributions.

Options

- Because all forms of art and artists are to be celebrated, allow cupcakes to be designed for musicians, dancers, designers, architects, film makers, etc.



National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts

Creating

Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Connecting

Anchor Standard 10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

