

The Courtauld

Pointillist Confetti Inspired by Georges Seurat



↑ Georges Seurat (1859 - 1891), Bridge at Courbevoie, 1886 , Oil on Canvas, 46.4x 55.3cm, The Courtauld, London (Samuel Courtauld Trust)
© The Courtauld



This is a painting by artist Georges Seurat (1859 - 1891). Seurat was a painter working in Paris at the end of the 19th century. He enjoyed painting places like beaches where people would go to relax and enjoy themselves. He helped start a new trend in painting called Pointillism.

Pointillism means a painting made out of lots of tiny dots or points of colour. If you look closely at this painting you will see that everything in the picture is made up of tiny dots. Seurat wanted colours painted side by side to mix in our eye when we look at the pictures, this is called Optical Mixing. Seurat believed that this would make his pictures brighter and more vibrant.

A Closer Look:

With someone in your household, use the questions below to take a deeper look at the painting and have a discussion about it. These questions are to help you look more closely at the painting, there are no right or wrong answers.

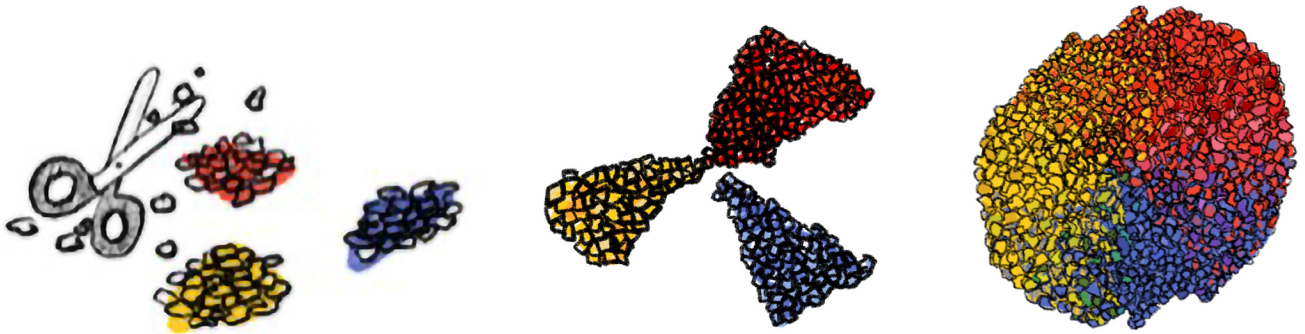


Materials:

- A sheet of Paper
- Magazines, newspaper and scrap paper
- Scissors (optional)
- Glue stick

Activity 1: A New Perspective

We're going to make coloured confetti to make our pictures, we're going to try and see how many colours we can create.



Step 1:

Cut or tear all your paper into little pieces of confetti. Divide your confetti into different piles of colour.

Step 2:

Make 3 piles of your red, yellow and blue confetti, these are your primary colours. Arrange these piles to make the start of your wheel, leaving spaces between each colour.

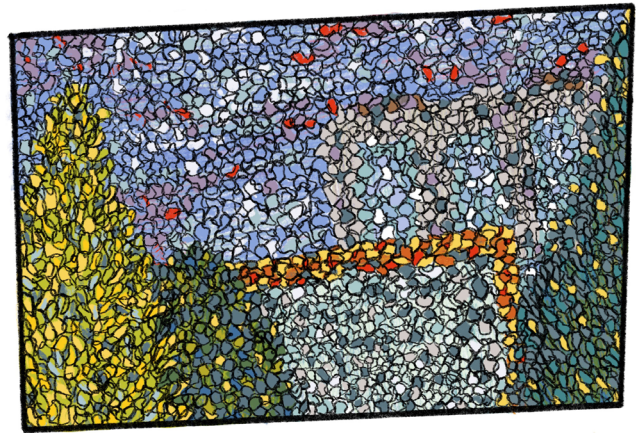
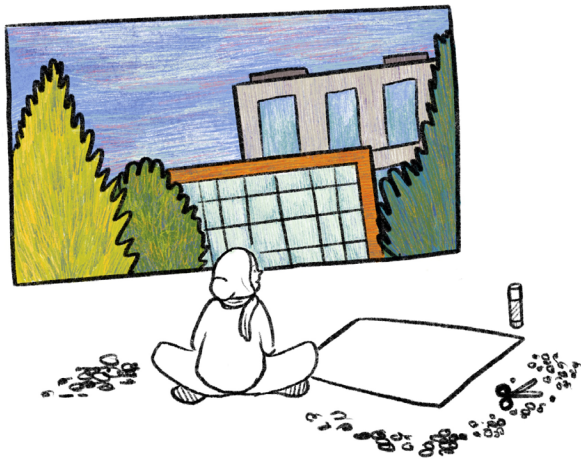
Step 3:

Fill in the gaps between your primary colour piles with secondary colours of orange, purple and green. You can make these colours by mixing together primary colours.

How many colours can you make in your wheel by mixing different shades together?

Activity 2: Make a Confetti Landscape

Seurat wanted to make a world of colours with his dots. We are going to try to make the world around us out of coloured confetti.



Look out of the windows in your home.

- What can you see? Take the time to notice every detail.
- Look at the sky How many colours can you see?
- How many different shades of blue are there in the sky? How many greys?
- Are there any colours in the sky you weren't expecting?
- Look at the landscape, the trees, the streets or the buildings. Are there colours here that you didn't expect?
- How many millions of colours do you think you see just from one window?

Step 1:

Arrange your confetti to create the landscape you see out the window. Lay the confetti on your paper but don't stick it down until you feel like it's finished.

You can start with big bits of bright colour and add new colours as you notice them. Don't worry about it being neat or perfect, when Seurat was making his first Pointillist images he took risks and tried something new, you can do the same thing!

Step 2:

Once you are happy you have found all the colours you can stick your confetti landscape to the paper using glue.

Step back and look at your picture. Do your eyes mix the colours together?