

# primary facts

## Pop Art & Andy Warhol

**Pop Art** began in the 1950's, but became very popular in the 1960's. It started in the United Kingdom, but became a true art movement in New York City with artists like **Andy Warhol** and Jasper Johns.

It is meant to be **fun, bright** and sometimes ironic or eye-catching. The colors used are typically contrasting or **complementary** colors (opposites on the **color wheel**).

Pop Art is art made from **commercial items** and **cultural icons** such as product labels, advertisements, and movie stars.

It uses **images and icons** that are popular in the modern world. This includes famous **celebrities**, commercial items like **soup cans** and soft drinks, **comic books**, and any other items that are popular in the commercial world.

Technology was the new craze in the 1950's. Although television was not invented in the 1950's, it became very popular early in the decade. Popular rock stars like **Elvis** shocked families across the nation with his dance moves on screen.

**Andy Warhol** was one of the most **famous** Pop Art artists! He used **advertisements** as his main inspiration for **screenprinting**. Other Pop Art artists include: Roy Lichtenstein, Jasper Johns, and Eduardo Paolozzi.

There are **contemporary** artists who keep Pop Art alive through their exciting work like: **Jeff Koons** and **Yayoi Kusama**. These artists capture the colorful and kitsch aesthetic of Pop Art.



*Andy Warhol, Self Portrait, 1966*

## Who is Andy Warhol and What Did he Do?

- Andy Warhol was born Andrew Warhola in 1928 in **Pennsylvania**.
- He and his parents moved to New York in the 1920's.
- His first job was illustrating advertisements in fashion magazines.
- He is famous for exploring popular culture in his work. **Popular culture** is anything from Coca Cola to pop stars to the clothes people like to wear.
- He made a **silk screen-print** of Campbell's Soup – a popular brand of soup in the United States. It pushed Pop Art to the front of the art scene.
- **Silk screen-printing** is a printing process that can create lots of artworks that look the same. One color is printed at a time, so several screens can be used to produce a multicolored image or design.
- Andy Warhol popularized screen printing as an **artistic technique**.



*Andy Warhol, Campbell's Soup Can, 1955*



*Andy Warhol, Flowers, 1964*

Andy Warhol drew **inspiration** from **magazines** and modern life unlike most artists who drew inspiration from **observational** drawing. Warhol didn't paint too many nature scenes, but one day he was inspired by a picture of hibiscus in a magazine. This makes for a perfect art project for kids!

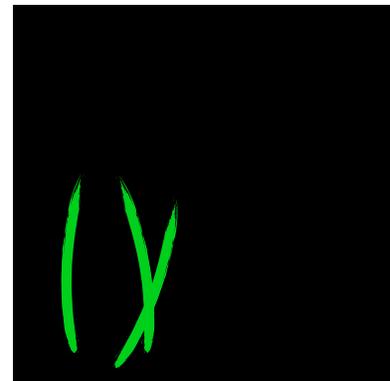
## Let's Try It!

### What You'll Need:

- Colored construction paper
- Crayons or oil pastels, pencil
- Scissors
- Glue

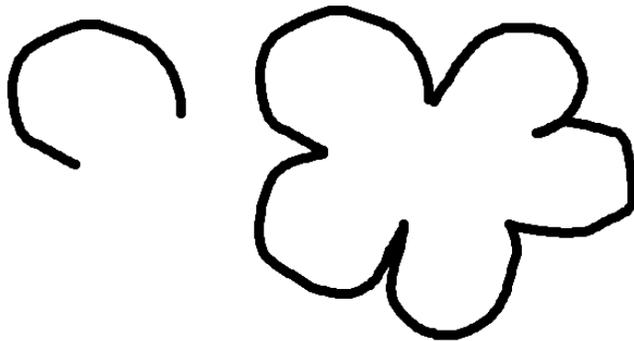
### Step One:

Grab a square piece of black construction paper and a green crayon or oil pastel. Place your crayon on the construction paper perpendicular to the paper then flick your wrist upwards to make a blade of grass. Scribble blades of grass in this motion to cover almost all of the black paper.



## Step Two:

Once your blades of grass are drawn, start drawing flowers on a variety of colored construction paper. Warhol used a simple approach to the floral design. Similar to the way clouds are drawn, start with your pencil on the piece of paper and draw a semicircle - without lifting your pencil continue that motion in a circle until you get four or five sides. There should be space left in the center. They are meant to be all different shapes - big and small!



## Step Three:

Cut out your colorful flowers and arrange them similarly to how Warhol had his styled in four quadrants of your square drawing! Glue them down.



**All done! Hang your masterpiece on your refrigerator and look at the proud smile on your child's face. Now your child knows about an art movement, a famous artist, and how to create POP ART!**