

## **Art Explorers Pointillism with George Seurat: Grade K**

**Objectives:** The students will learn about George Seurat, his masterpiece, “A Sunday On The Island Of La Grande Jatte”, and his technique of pointillism. The students will study the color wheel and then create a group poster of the woman with the umbrella from “Sunday in the Park with George.”

**Begin by asking the students questions such as what is art?**

**Art is creativity and imagination that produces something that is valued for it’s beauty...in kindergarten terms...art is when a person is creative...examples would be painting, singing, music, sculpture etc....**

**Refer to the poster: What kind of art do you think you are looking at?**

**Who is in this painting?**

**Do you think the people are happy or sad?**

**What time of day is it in this painting?**

**How do you think the artist used his paintbrush to paint this painting? (Long brush strokes or dots?)**

**Let the students know that these tiny dots actually have a special name.**

**Then introduce the technique of pointillism and begin talking about George Seurat.**

**Terminology: Pointillism:** a style of painting in which small points of primary colors (red, blue and yellow) create the impression of secondary (green, orange and purple) and intermediate colors. Show the students the color wheel when talking about the colors.

Ask the students what red and blue make when mixed, what do yellow and red create, and blue and yellow...Then demonstrate mixing these colors by using your q-tips and corks by making dots of colors on the poster.

Ask Questions along the way about where the students notice the different colors. Have them come up to the poster and point out specific colors that they see.

**Artist: George Seurat:** George was born in Paris France and was a very shy man who seemed afraid of everything. But he was a very hard worker especially when it came to his artwork. George studied many different techniques when it came to painting and finally came up with his own technique called pointillism. It took George 2 years to complete A Sunday On The Island of La Grande Jatte! It is also 10 ft. wide. (Bring 3 students up to the front of the classroom. Have them stand with their arms stretched out in a straight line to demonstrate approximately what 10 ft. wide looks like, or have the students stretch out the yarn in the portfolio to see 10 ft.) Georges painting even inspired a musical called “Sunday in the Park with George.”

(You can play “Sunday in the Park With George” from the Steven Sondheim musical on your phone or other device for the students if you want.)

Explain to the students that you are going to practice George's pointillism technique.  
**Project: The students will create a group poster of different people Sunday on the Island of La Grande Jatte by using the pointillism technique.**

**Materials:** Premade poster located in the portfolio  
Tempera Paint  
q-tips and wine corks  
Paper towels and paper plates

**Set Up:** Have two paper plates set up like an artist's palette with the paint (red orange yellow blue green and purple). Tape the poster to the chalkboard in the front (or back) of the room. Use a desk covered in paper towels to set the paper plates of paint on. Be sure that the teacher's name is on the back of the poster.

**Directions:** Using the q-tips, and then the cork, demonstrate dipping them into the paint and adding dots to fill in the characters on the poster. Choose colors for each part of the poster. For example: if you choose orange for the skirt, use red and yellow very close and on top of each other to make red. Also incorporate the true orange paint by adding dabs of it as well. Call two students up at a time to add some colors to the painting. Let the students decide what colors each part should be (hat, umbrella, skirt shirt) it should be very bright and colorful. You may even have time to add to the background. Be sure to include all of the students in this activity. It is a group project. You can wipe the corks to change colors. Use both ends of the q-tips before throwing them away.

Once the poster is complete guide the students back to their tables and pass out the George Seurat coloring pages or plain paper (if they want to create their own pictures and let the students use the paint and q-tips to fill them in with pointillist dots.

The volunteer should take the poster and let it dry in the workroom and then hang it on the art explorer bulletin board. The individual coloring sheets can go home with the students or can also be hung on the bulletin board when dry.

**Recap Questions:** Who was the artist you learned about today? What technique did he use to paint? How big is his actual painting?

**Clean Up:** Be sure that all the paint is cleaned up and that the qtips and paper plates get thrown away. Clean off the corks so that they can be used again. Have the students wash their hands if necessary.