



Elements: Texture & Natural Shapes

Principles: Contrast

Materials:

- 12" x 18" lighter colored construction paper
- 12" x 18" brown construction paper
- Rubbing crayons (aka peeled crayons)
- Leaves of many varieties
- White tempera or acrylic paint
- Sponges (or brushes)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Owl Babies* (by Wadell & Benson)

Instructions:

1. Introduce the topic of **texture** (example below) to the students, then read the book, *Owl Babies*, pointing out some examples of texture in the book (lines on the fluff on the birds, lines on branches, bark, background, etc).
2. Show students the art **sample** and explain that they will be making their own owl babies.
3. First have students use peeled crayons and make **leaf rubbings** on the surface of their large paper, emphasizing **using colors that contrast** with their paper. Show them that you pick up the rubbing crayon with a claw hand (four fingers together, thumb on opposite side) to do the rubbings. Model doing a leaf rubbing yourself.
4. Have them cut out a horizontal branch from the brown paper. Use a darker crayon to **rub shading on the edges** of the branch, holding crayon with "claw hand". **Add lines** to the branch to add texture.
5. **Glue** the colored branch down on the page.
6. When kids are ready pass out a *small amount of white paint*.
7. Use sponges or brushes to make 3 fluffy owl bodies with a minimal amount of paint. **Remind students that they should have no globs of paint on their paper.** Paint must be spread thin, so it can dry very quickly.
8. Have students **cut out three small triangles** approximately the size of their thumbnails.
9. Have students glue beaks onto owls.
10. Using black crayon have students add small eyes on owls, feet on owls (on the branch), and texture on owls (using small lines)
11. Have the students write their names on back of paper and clean up area. Soak sponges/brushes right away in water if used.



Dutch artist – **Vincent Van Gogh** – *Olive Trees* – 1889

Texture refers to a surface quality and can be real or simulated. Actual texture can be both visual (seen) and tactile (touched). Simulated texture, like in the oil painting above, cannot be interpreted by touching; it must be seen.