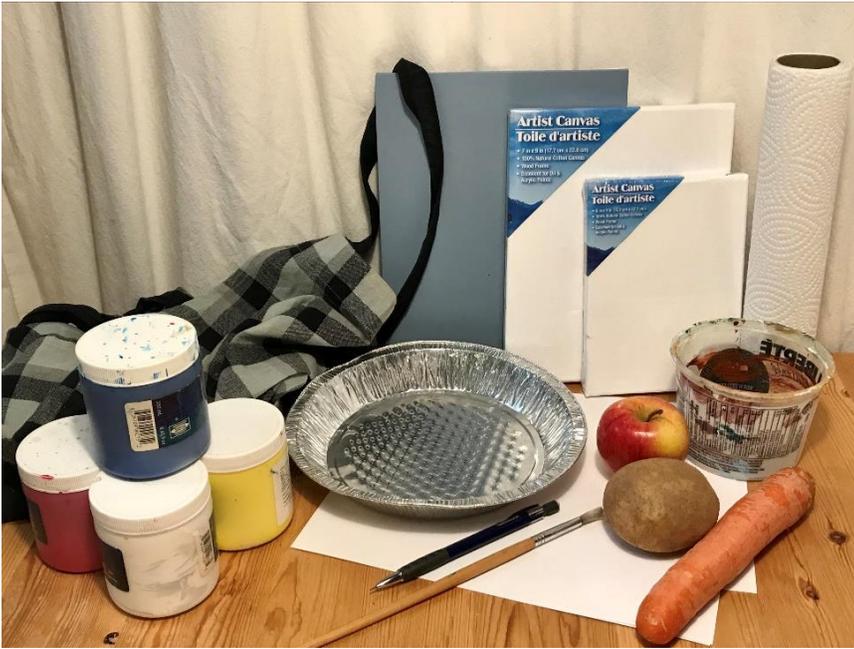


IF I WERE AN ANIMAL

STEP 1: COLLECT AND ORGANIZE ALL OF YOUR MATERIALS



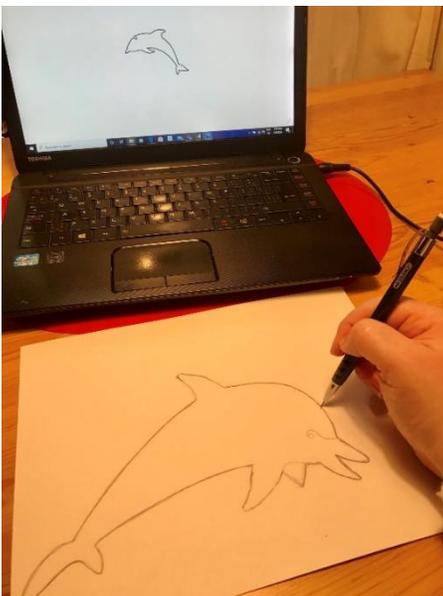
- Smock
- Images of your favourite animals
- Pencil or marker
- An apple, carrot, potato, flower or leaf to make a stamp with. Ask a parent or guardian for permission.
- Cutting board and knife
- Acrylic or poster paints: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, white, black and brown
- Paint tray
- Paint brush
- Water container (a recycled plastic tub or container will work)
- Paper towel
- Heavy weight, water absorbent paper or canvas of any size

Collect your materials and cover your work surface to prevent paint stains. Be sure to wear “painting clothes” and/or a smock to help prevent a mess.

TIP: Acrylic paint is very difficult to remove from clothing or surfaces once dried.

SAFETY TIP: Be sure to ask your parent/guardian for permission and help when handling a knife.

STEP 2: SKETCH OUT YOUR ANIMAL SHAPE



Once you have chosen the animal you think best represents you, you may want to look up some reference pictures of that creature on the internet or in a book. Try to find the general shape or outline of the animal, then draw that shape onto your paint surface. Remember not to colour the animal in yet, as you are just drawing a light shape to guide you.

TIP: Remember to try and draw your animal as largely as possible. You can take up the entire space if you wish to. The larger the animal, the more space you'll have to add your stamps and colour!

STEP 3: CREATE YOUR STAMPS

Once you are happy with your animal outline, put aside your paper or canvas and ask a parent or guardian to bring out a cutting board and knife. You can explain how you would like them to help cut up your apples, carrots, potatoes or other fruits and vegetables to make your stamps.

TIP: Try to cut the “stamps” big enough so that you can hold them easily. Think about what kinds of shapes and sizes they will be. Do you need straight or curved lines? Big or small shapes? Go ahead and create as many stamps as you like. This will increase the variety of colours in your painting.



STEP 4: PAINT YOUR SHAPE

Once your stamps are ready, prepare a tray of paints using a variety of colours and keep some paper towel and water nearby to wash and dry off your stamps if you want to change colours. Dip one stamp at a time directly into the paint. Then, press your stamp down firmly on your canvas or paper, holding it steady when you lift off your stamp to avoid smudging. Add a little bit of water to your paint if your colours appear too thick and you wish to thin them out.

TIP: For greater control, use a paint brush to add the exact amount of paint you want directly onto your stamp instead of dipping the stamp in the paint.



STEP 5: ADD DETAILS AND LAYERS TO YOUR ANIMAL

Norval Morriseau used many layers of paint to show the energy found in his thunderbird. If you want to explore this idea as well, let your first layer of paint dry before adding additional layers. Think about the colours that are meaningful to you or your culture. You can also consider adding elements such as eyes, ears, tails and texture to complete your animal portrait.



CHALLENGE YOURSELF:

Expand your picture by creating an expressive background which represents you and your personality. Are you generally loud and happy? You could show this by having lots of energy lines exploding around your animal in bright colours. What you decide to do in your background is totally up to you!



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