



arts  
CORPS

MAKE ART  
ANYWAY.

ART ACTIVITY  
INSTRUCTIONS:

**PATTERNED FRAMES**

@ARTSCORPS

#MAKEARTANYWAY

# PATTERNED FRAMES

**Discipline:** Visual Arts

**Duration:** 45 minutes

**Age Range:** Grades 2 - 5

**Creator:**  
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## **Materials:**

Paper  
Ruler  
Pencils  
Crayons or  
Color Pencils or  
Markers  
Colored Paper  
Scissors  
Glue

## **Vocabulary:**

Framing  
Mosaic  
Pattern  
Symmetry  
Emphasis  
Emphasize

## **Learning Goals:**

- You will understand you can use emphasis to show something important.
- You will understand and use pattern and symmetry to design a frame.
- You will learn to use mosaic technique to create pattern.

## **Activity Opening:**

What are different ways we show that something is important or special to us? In art, we use different design techniques to **emphasize** what is most important in a picture: placement, size, space, and framing, to name a few.

**Framing** is when we create a border around the important object in order to draw attention to it.

We'll make our frame extra special by creating a pattern around it. **Pattern** is a design that repeats. We'll make sure our patterns show mirror **symmetry**, so that one side matches the opposite side if we were to fold it in half.

You can choose whether to create a mosaic design (cut shapes arranged with space in between) or one that you draw and color.

## **Steps/Instructions:**

1. Use your ruler to draw a border line on each side of your paper.
2. You can choose to create a **mosaic** design or a drawing and coloring design:

### *Mosaic Design:*

- Cut shapes out of colored or recycled papers. Remember, you'll need many of the same size, so fold or stack your paper, draw your shape, then cut a few sheets of paper at the same time.
- Arrange your shapes into a pattern inside the border. (Don't put anything in the middle--that's where the picture will go!) Make the sure the pattern at the top, matches the bottom. You can use a different pattern for the sides, as long as the sides are symmetrical.
- Glue your pieces down. Leave space in between each piece so the main paper creates an outline around each shape.



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#CreativeSolidarity

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## **Drawing and Coloring Design:**

- After you draw your border lines, divide the long rectangles on the sides by drawing diagonal lines to form a long X in each rectangle. You'll end up with 4 triangles on each side.
  - Draw a **pattern** in one of the triangles. Repeat the same pattern on the opposite side. Use the same color(s) for your pattern on both sides. Repeat for all the triangles on the left and the right sides.
  - You could do the same thing for the top, bottom and corners, but perhaps use different shapes instead of triangles. Another option is to color them solid. Just make sure it's **symmetrical**, so whatever your design is on top matches the bottom.
3. After you've finished decorating the border, you can glue a picture or poem in the middle blank space. Or, cut out the middle to make a frame and lay it over a poem or picture. Glue or tape the frame to your poem or picture.

## **Activity Closing:**

What did you decide to put in the middle of your frame? What do you want to show is special to you? Hang your framed art or poem in your house, at your window and let others know who or what you are grateful for, who or what is important to you.

**CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO  
VERSION OF THIS LESSON.**

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