

## FEBRUARY: My Story Collage

### Art Appreciation with Jacob Lawrence

*Essential Question: How can I celebrate Black History Month with visual art?*



Supplies Needed	Art Vocabulary:	Learning Targets:	Meets WA Learning Standard:
Oil pastels or tempera paint & brushes	Shape	Students can emulate work from famous artist Jacob Lawrence	
8.5 x 11" paper	Primary Color	Students can create a silhouette with paper cut outs.	
Black or brown construction paper	Sillhouette		
Scissors & glue sticks			

Instructions:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To celebrate Black History Month, show students examples from artist <a href="#">Jacob Lawrence</a>. Look at his collection of works and talk to students about what they notice is the same?</li> <li>• Talk about what a silhouette is (a dark outline of an object or person)</li> <li>• Where do they see silhouettes in Lawrence's work? Do they see the primary colors?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next, choose one piece of his art to discuss: What do you think the artist is communicating? What story do they think he is telling with his artwork?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Now, give each student drawing paper + oil pastels (or tempera paint) in red, yellow and blue. Have students play with the color, filling in the whole page with color blocks, shapes or patterns. Tell students to avoid mixing the color on the page, keep the primary colors strong and bold.</li> <li>• Then set that piece of paper aside. This will be their background (substrate) paper.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next, have students pick a story from their life they want to tell with their art. For the older learners, see the tip below about a writing prompt.</li> <li>• Give each student a half sheet of black or brown paper and a white pencil.</li> <li>• Have them draw and then cut out shapes to make a silhouette.</li> <li>• There is not a right or wrong subject for the silhouette, a few examples could be: themselves, their family members, an object from home that is meaningful, a pet, the shape of a piece of furniture at home.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next, have students glue these shapes down on top of their decorated (substrate) paper.</li> </ul>

### Pro Tips For Success:

- To assist with the process of distributing and cleaning up art supplies, think about delegating tasks or materials to table groups or responsible students in the room.
- Consider using oil pastels instead of paint for easier clean up. Make sure not to give students the black or white oil pastels. Just give them vibrant color.
- Consider giving older students a writing prompt to go with this visual exploration of their storytelling. Perhaps have students write a short story or paragraph about
- You can have students come up with the story first and then decorate, draw around the silhouette second. It's up to you!
- Adding the silhouette in black or brown paper after decorating the page loosens students up to not have to think too hard and just have fun with color.
- Also, adding the silhouette on top of the colored paper second ensures there isn't any paint or oil pastel color that accidentally gets on to the cut out silhouette.