**Masterpiece:**

Still Life, 1890-94

Size: 13 in. x 16 in.

Media: oil on canvas

Artist:

Paul Cezanne, 1839-1906

Project:

Fruit Still Life

KEY CONCEPTS

Style: Still-Life

Design: Balance

Shape: Highlights/Shading

Color: Primary/Secondary
Warm/Cool

Space: Light Source

Line: Contour/Outline
Thick/Thin

ABOUT THE ARTIST

- Painted about 1890 when the first cars were being invented.
- Born in the south of France.
- Liked to paint still lifes of fruit because they didn't squirm around like people.
- His father wanted him to become a banker but he quit to become a painter.
- He was a master of using color to show form, distance, and mood.

CONCEPTS

Style

- Still Life

Post-Impressionist

Design:

- Balance

Composition

Repetition

Color:

- Primary/
Secondary

Warm/Cool

Shape:

- Highlights/
Shading

Form

Space

Light Source

Lines:

Contour/Outline

Thick/Thin

Texture:

Visual

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR KEY CONCEPTS

Why did Cezanne paint fruit?

Cezanne, like other artists, loved to paint still-life compositions, such as flowers, fruits, or objects on a table. He could arrange them any way he wanted to make them seem alive. Still-life objects are easier to paint; they sit still.

Which fruit in this still life would Cezanne pick up to eat first?

The lemon in this painting is the brightest fruit and attracts our attention first.

Is the composition balanced?

Cezanne balanced the objects so each piece of fruit is important. They form a flat triangle on the round plate. Their round shapes are repeated in the round platter and jug. The bright fruits balance the large jug and make our eyes move around the painting.

What are the main colors used by Cezanne?

Our eyes are attracted to the primary colors in the bright red apples, yellow lemon, blue pitcher, table cloth, and background. The blue background and red and yellow fruits dominate the painting. Secondary colors are seen in the oranges, green apples, and violet shading on the pitcher. They add contrast and variety.

How did Cezanne make the fruit look round?

The fruits are painted with curving brush strokes and highlights and shadows that give them form. Highlights shine on the green apple and the orange, the pitcher, and the rim of the bowl shine in the light, making them appear to project, or pop out from the flat canvas. Dark shading on the lower side of the fruits, pitcher, and table cloth, show where the light doesn't reach. These shadowy areas appear to recede, or hide, making them appear farther away. The light source is from the top left, behind the observer's left shoulder. This light hits the objects that stick out.

How do the edges show form?

Cezanne painted curving, shaded contour lines to show the rounded edges of the fruit. He painted a dark outline surrounding the pitcher, and he added shading on its surface to give it form. Thick lines on the tablecloth and background are made with strong, even brush strokes, repeated in patches of blue, gray, and green. They make a pattern in the background. Thin, careful brush strokes add detail and texture to the fruits and background. They add highlights and shading to show form.

What main shape did Cezanne use to unify this painting?

Cezanne gave unity to the composition by repeating a round shape for the fruit in the pitcher and its lip, the designs on the table cloth, the edge of the table, and the fruit bowl.

MATERIALS

- sketchbooks
- 12x18 white paper
- 12x18 assorted paper, mounting
- 9x12 assorted paper (2 ea) for bowl and table
- Pictures of Produce
- drawing pencils
- oil pastels
- artificial or real produce
- scissors, glue
- wipes

SETUP

- Prefold the 12x18 white paper for individual drawings. Loosely fold the paper into 6 sections: in half vertically, then in thirds horizontally.
- Set out sketchbooks, drawing pencils, pictures of produce, and fake or real produce.
- Have ready 12x18 prefolded white paper and oil pastels.
- Have ready scissors, glue, 12x18 assorted paper for mounting, and 9x12 assorted paper for table and bowl.
- Have ready damp paper towels and sponges for wiping up spills and cleaning fingers.

TIPS

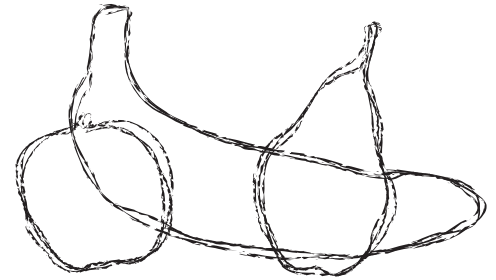
- Bring in real produce in a variety of sizes, shapes, and colors.
- Have students add patterns to their table tops for more variety.
- Make a sample still life ahead of time for use in showing how to arrange balanced compositions. Use double-stick tape to allow for moving pieces around.



PROJECT: FRUIT STILL LIFE

Sketch:

1. Air draw a piece of fruit.
2. Sketch the contour of a fruit or vegetable. Use Pictures of Produce or real produce as guide.

**Project:**

1. Fold a 12x18 white paper into 6 parts. Draw 6 different fruits or vegetables, one per section. Draw only simple contours, varying shapes.
2. Color the fruits and vegetables using secondary colors with pastels. Color heavily. Blend colors to make fruits/vegetables more realistic.
3. Color details, highlights, and shadows on the fruits and vegetables. Choose a light source to ensure consistent shading. Add white highlight on the side the light hits. Blend with fingertips. Add shadows to opposite side by crosshatching blue, black or gray.
4. Cut out trapezoid shaped table using colored paper, making it large. Place table at bottom of paper with longer edge near bottom of paper. Add table legs.
5. Cut out and decorate a paper bowl from a 9x12 piece of colored paper.
6. Cut out and arrange the fruits and vegetables in a balanced still life. Place contrasting colors near each other.
7. Glue down bowl leaving the top edge unglued for the moment. Arrange balanced composition of fruits and vegetables "in" the bowl, protruding from the top. Glue down fruits and then glue the edge of the bowl down over the bottom of the fruits.

