

Musical Painter

Step 1

Choose at least three instrumental songs to play for students that do not have any lyrics. You can find and play our song recommendations at doodles.google.com/d4g/classroom.

Step 2

Tell students that they will be listening to some musical pieces—but they are not going to paint pictures of things—they'll be painting their senses, thoughts, and ideas. Let them listen to the songs once without any activity.

Step 3

Have students listen to the songs again, and this time though they will paint the colors, feelings, thoughts and shapes that the music inspires them to create. The music should guide their artistic choices: color, shape, style, etc.

Note: (For kinder/1st, it may be helpful to lower the lights a bit or do this exercise after a high energy activity/recess.)

Step 4 (optional)

After the exercise, discuss the experience with the students and have them share their paintings. What did they see/feel/hear/visualize? Discuss the choices they made as they were painting: what sound made this color? What feeling is this? Is this now, the future, or some other space outside of time? Go wherever the discussion takes you!

Items needed

3 sheets of paper

Paint/markers/crayons/
colored pencils

Brushes

Speaker