

Silhouette Art

An Art Lesson for Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade (Week of May 18th)



An outline, shadow drawing of an object, in one solid color, is a silhouette. Usually silhouettes are profile (side view) portraits cut from black paper and pasted on larger white paper. A silhouette can also be any outline or sharp shadow of an object.

Silhouettes were named for the Étienne de Silhouette (1709–67), French minister of finance, who was noted for his drastic methods of economy; the phrase *à la Silhouette* grew to mean "on the cheap." His hobby was cutting paper shadow portraits.

Silhouettes may have originated in the cave murals of Stone Age people, especially those who lived in France and Spain. They apparently traced the outline of an object's shadow and filled in the outline with a flat color.

You will create your own silhouette artwork similar to the examples below:



For this activity you will need a piece of white paper (any size), pencil, scissors, black construction paper, glue, a variety of colored markers or crayons or paint.

Step 1: Choose either warm colors (yellow, orange, red) or cool colors (blue, green, purple) to completely color in the white paper. This will be your background.

Step 2: Decide on your subject matter. It can be animals, buildings, trees, vehicles, etc. Draw your ideas on black paper with pencil.

Step 3: Carefully cut out your shapes from the black paper.

Step 4: Set up the black shapes on the colored-in background paper.

Step 5: Glue all shapes down so they are flat against the background.

Things to think about:

- Fill up your white paper with color. No white should be showing.
- Draw things large on the black paper so it will be easier to cut out.
- Do not add any details to the objects drawn on black paper
- Flip over cut out objects to hide any leftover pencil lines.
- Arrange all of your cut out objects until they are in the right places before gluing them down.
- Your artwork can have a theme. Will it be underwater, city, farm, outer space? You choose.

Vocabulary:

Silhouette, arrange, object, warm colors, cool colors