

Bread Spread

The classroom offers a wealth of information for the student artist. Literature, music and social studies provide information about people, places and things. Math and science offer abstract images. Art provides an opportunity for students to create meaningful images — and pastel techniques are ideal for encouraging creative self-expression.

Professional pastel artists consider their completed work a pastel “painting,” not a drawing, and the tools they use to create their paintings change over time. This lesson plan will spark students’ creativity as they use an unconventional material — French bread — to enhance their pastel paintings.

The materials and techniques used will keep the mess to a minimum. Students will be working on the back of a canvas sheet, simulating the expensive velour paper that professional pastel artists use. The paper’s slightly fuzzy texture will hold the loose pastel chalk in place.

Grade Levels K-6

Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

Process

1. Ask students to lightly draw an image on the back of their canvas sheets with a piece of pastel chalk. Have them make the image as large as possible.
2. Have students continue to add color to their pastel paintings using all the colors of pastel chalk.
3. Break the loaves of French bread into small pieces (about the size of a golf ball), leaving a portion of crust on each piece. Give students each one piece of bread and have them use it to blend the pastel colors in their paintings. If the bread gets dirty, have them pull off the dirty layer and continue with a clean area. Encourage them to use the crust to scratch the surface of the pastel color,



Materials

Blick® Studio Canvas Pad, 12" x 16" (07400-1046), 10 sheets per pad; need 1 sheet per student

Blick® Pastels, set of 48 (20016-0489), Share two sets across classroom by breaking each stick in half and distributing among students.

Two loaves of French bread

much like a sgraffito technique. They can remove the excess flakes of chalk by holding their canvas in two hands and tapping the edge on the table.

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National Standards

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

K-4 Students use different media, techniques, and processes to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories

5-8 Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas