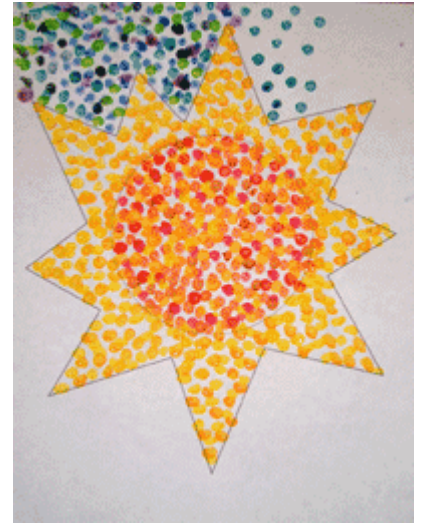


# Pointillism – Lots of Dots - Grades K-8

Explore pointillism with these project ideas of varying complexity.

## Materials Needed (depends on project):

Tempera paint, thick paper to paint on, brushes, cotton swabs, pencil, newspaper or plastic to protect surfaces, cups of water to rinse brushes, sink or buckets of water to clean hands, plastic trays from frozen food or foil covered paper plates to hold paint.



## Introducing the theme:

The work of various artists who made pointillism paintings can be studied. Also included with this project is a full color sun picture. Print out the sun picture and hold it up in front of the class, and ask them what colors the picture is made of. From a distance they should see red/orange/yellow/blue as the primary colors used. Then pass the printout around so they can see how many colors are in the picture.

## Project Ideas:

Students will need only a small amount of paint on their palette of any given color.

For the youngest students, give them the printout of the sun outline (write their names on the backs) and some red and orange paints. Have them fill in the center of the sun with dots – using either their fingertips or cotton swabs to make the dots. Then give them some yellow and orange paint to fill in the rays of the sun, once that is complete some blue and purple/green/light blue paint to fill in the surrounding area. The painting can be done in sessions – having the students work on one area during a session and then setting the paintings aside to dry if desired.

To make the above project a bit more complex, older students can experiment with mixing some colors on their palette and making new shades of color to work with. Advise the students to mix small amounts of color, and that the lighter colors will be overpowered by the dark in mixing – to make green use a lot of yellow and a little blue. They should paint with cotton swabs, and have one swab for each color they've made. The sun printout can be used, or they can choose to draw the outline of something simple on their page to paint.

The most advanced students can work on sketching the outlines of a simple still life (that has very distinct colors). They should mix their own colors for the paint. I would still recommend cotton swab brushes, although regular small brushes can be used. Be sure to provide water to rinse the brushes with. Additionally, the distinctions of changes in shade – shadow and light spots – can be pointed out to them before they begin painting, encouraging them to further experiment with color.

