

WISDOM WONDER PROJECT™

Primary Young Masters
Collection

Year 01

Month 01



We make the
power, magic,
and mystery
of learning
accessible to
our modern
world.



Emma Saperstein

Serving in a variety of curatorial and arts management positions over the past eight years, Emma currently curates for Cuesta College's Harold J. Miossi Art Gallery and an international art group called Shared_Studios. Her internationally-based childhood has fostered in her a wonder about the infinite patterns in the world and nature, while her education at Wheaton College and the New York Center for Art and Media Studies made her passionate about contemporary art. "For me personally," she says, "the arts gave me a language and way of expression I did not know I needed."

I remember the first time I held my great grandmothers' ceramic vases. She made art more as a hobby than a profession, but her work held so much of her spirit in it - I could feel it when I held each piece. The vases were turquoise-green ceramic, just the right weight, perfectly glazed with a rustic, worn look. They were certainly more decorative than functional, but they held the essence of hard work; you could tell she had spent hours making them exactly what she wanted them to be.

In these units, we engage modern and contemporary artists who have spent their lifetimes making exactly what they wanted to make. Their work reflects key foundational elements of art (such as shape, line, color, form), but it is also the precise manifestation of what they needed to express. Because, ultimately, in the world of art, there are no rules! Good art is just good communication and, in many ways, you know it when you see it. It is more about resonance than skill or talent. In these lessons, we will together attempt to understand the character and spirit of each artist we engage with; also together, we will work to decipher what these artists were attempting to say. As we do so, we will begin to find the path to our own, new ways of expression.

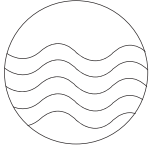
Three of my grandmother's vases now live on various shelves around my house, full of quarters and thumbtacks and flowers. When I see them, and think of how she loved and engaged her own material and practice, I feel deeply connected to her work and her time. My hope is that, while we study these artists, we will experience that same connection with them.

— Emma Saperstein



EQUIPPING YOU:

a message to the educator



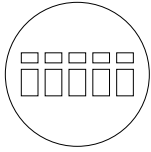
Flow & Scheduling

The Wisdom Wonder Project Young Masters Collection was created to give educators a feast of ideas and activities, which introduce influential artists and their unique approaches. It is intended to encourage a deep, engaging, and slow rhythm to your weeks and months as you journey through primary alongside your child. There is not one approach, one schedule, or one right way to go about the month. This unit is about inspiring a love for the arts and fostering an understanding of how artists engage the world around them. It is meant to walk you slowly through each month, not to overwhelm you or cause you to rush to check the boxes. It is intended to create time for you and your child to spend together, enjoying the process and learning. You may want to do all of the activities, you may want to do fewer, or you may even want to add more. You have our permission. Enjoy the feast, however you see best for this season and your family.



Finding Success in the Journey

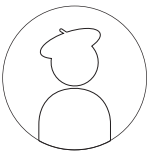
1. Read through the monthly unit.
2. Create your vision for teaching the unit to your child(ren).
3. Personally engage with the works of the selected artist, thinking about how you plan to interact with these works with your child(ren).
4. Read the book yourself.
5. Look at your calendar and plan out your weeks (see a sample schedule, below).
6. Gather the necessary materials.
7. Engage in the feast of activities, ideas, and projects.
8. Enjoy your time soaking in great works of art!



Sample Schedule

	DAY 01	DAY 02	DAY 03	DAY 04	DAY 05
WEEK 01	Read Artist Overview, Read the Book		Element Activity 01		Discuss Famous Work 01
WEEK 02	Artist-Inspired Project 01		Reread the Book, Element Activity 02		Discuss Famous Work 02
WEEK 03	Artist-Inspired Project 02		Discuss Famous Work 03		Artist-Inspired Project 03
WEEK 04	Reread the Book		Element Activity 3		Extension Activity

This schedule is meant to serve as a guide. The sample schedule does not reflect each month exactly. Some months will have a greater number of one type of activity and fewer of another, but you will find the same number of activities overall. Please feel free to make adjustments to the schedule as you see fit.



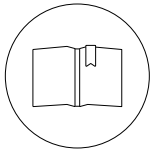
Artist of the Month

You and your child(ren) will discover windows into art history as you engage deeply with a significant modern or contemporary artist each month. Each artist's practice sheds new and unique light on an assortment of mediums and contexts, as well as on their historical background and significance. Throughout this collection, you will encounter a carefully curated group of artists who best represent a range of cultures, mediums, and life experiences.



Artist Background

An artist's life and practice play a complex and crucial role in the art they make. In this section, you will find a brief history and background of the artist you are studying in a given month. There is so much to learn about each artist; this information has been distilled to paint a clear picture of each artist's life and why they chose to make art in their distinctive way.



Book of the Month

You and your child(ren) will enjoy one book each month that engages the artist of the month's practice, background, or context. While there are countless resources to choose from, the books found in this collection are specifically selected for their relevance and the way they guides the reader into the artists' worlds. Read through each monthly book several times with your child, taking time to notice new things with each reading.



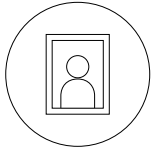
Book Overview

Each month, you will see a book overview. The purpose of this section is to support you in how to introduce the book to your child by giving you a brief introduction. This is meant to be a springboard for further discussion while you read. Invite your child to look at the pictures and tell you what they notice. You will be amazed at what they point out. Resist the urge to ask questions that require yes or no answers. Aim for a more open-ended approach.



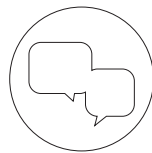
Element of the Month

Each month, we explore an element - line, texture, color, form, composition - that the artist of the month highlights or uses heavily in their work. This is an opportunity for your child to go deeper, beyond the personal narrative or practice of each artist and learn a key art concept that translates to the rest of their creative lives!



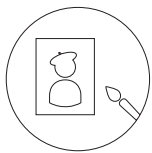
Famous Works

You and your child(ren) will have the opportunity every month to explore four famous works created by the artist you are studying that month. Print these images out, and take time to look at them. Put them on your fridge, or somewhere else where you can see them throughout the month. It has been said, when engaging an artist's work, it is important to *look* longer than is comfortable, and then look again. Spend time with your child and these works.



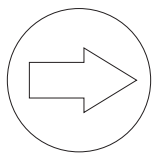
Discussion Questions

You will find several discussion questions to help you think about these famous pieces and why they are important. Art is the gift that keeps on giving; you will discover new things every time you look.



Artist-inspired Projects

Each month you will find three projects, inspired by the artist you are studying, to complete with your child(ren). This is a time of making and creativity - enjoy it! It may take several days to complete a project. These projects, whether painting, drawing, or another craft, will help to connect you with elements from the artist of the month's practice.



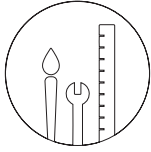
Extension Activities

You and your child(ren) will also have the option to keep exploring with two extension activities every month that relate to the artist you are studying. In the contemporary art world there are many external resources, from online museum tours, to soundtracks, to larger art projects that go deeper into the background and process of artists. Use these additional resources for further discovery, as you see fit.



Group Activities

Each month, you will find two activities designed specifically for a group of learners, such as a class, a co-op, or a group of friends. The activities will vary from month to month.



Materials

All materials are meant to enhance your child's learning experience. Many can be found around the house, while some will need to be purchased. Our goal is to find affordable options for products that can last a lifetime. Links are included for your convenience, but you're welcome to get creative and substitute what you have on hand or find similar options as you see fit.

At the end of each unit, you will find a shopping list that contains all materials needed for that month. The materials on that list are pulled from three categories:

- 1. Setting Up Your Space**– These are foundational materials you will need for schooling your child(ren) at this age. You should already have most of these items handy. Use the hyperlink to view the full recommended list on our Little by Little blog.
- 2. Collection Materials**– Some materials will be used in most of the months throughout this particular collection. Some are required, others are just recommended. Before you begin your first month in this collection, plan on purchasing the materials listed below:

Required:



[Origami Paper](#)



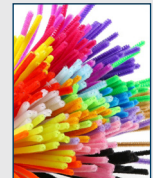
[Gold Leaf](#)



[Gold Leaf Adhesive](#)



[Crayons](#)

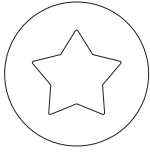


[Pipe Cleaners](#)

Construction Paper
Glue
Paintbrushes

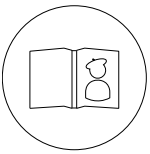
Scissors
Tempera Paints

- 3. Monthly Materials**– There are also required materials specific to each month. You will find these materials pictured, linked, or listed in the monthly unit. Plan on purchasing these materials before you begin your new lessons.



Recommended Products

In this section, you can expect to find an array of carefully selected books and items that we believe will enhance your child's learning experience, above and beyond the unit materials. Our goal is to find products that will last a lifetime, while also keeping affordability in mind. Links for items will be included for your convenience. Happy shopping!



Additional Books about the Artist

In this section, you can expect to find an array of carefully selected books and items that we believe will enhance your child's learning experience, above and beyond the unit materials. Our goal is to find products that will last a lifetime, while also keeping affordability in mind. Links for items will be included for your convenience. Happy shopping!

Primary Young Masters

01-01

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Frida Kahlo



*Feet, what do I need you for
when I have wings to fly?*

— FRIDA KAHLO



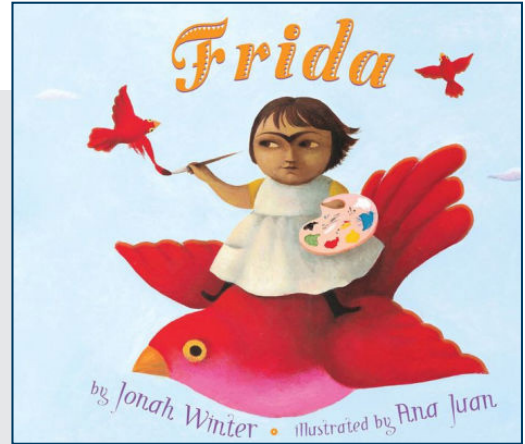
Artist Background

This month, you and your child(ren) will engage deeply with the work, life, and practice of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. Frida Kahlo was well known for her folk art practices and lived and worked in Mexico City, Mexico and San Francisco, USA. She was married to Diego Rivera - another famous Mexican surrealist painter. Frida had many struggles in her life. She had polio as a child and was involved in a terrible car accident at the age of eighteen that left her essentially bedridden for the rest of her life. Despite her struggles, she continued to create. Making art was an important way for her to express herself and her experiences of hardship. Frida Kahlo's work has inspired countless people to find hope in the midst of pain and to seek joy even in times of sadness.



Frida

By Jonah Winter



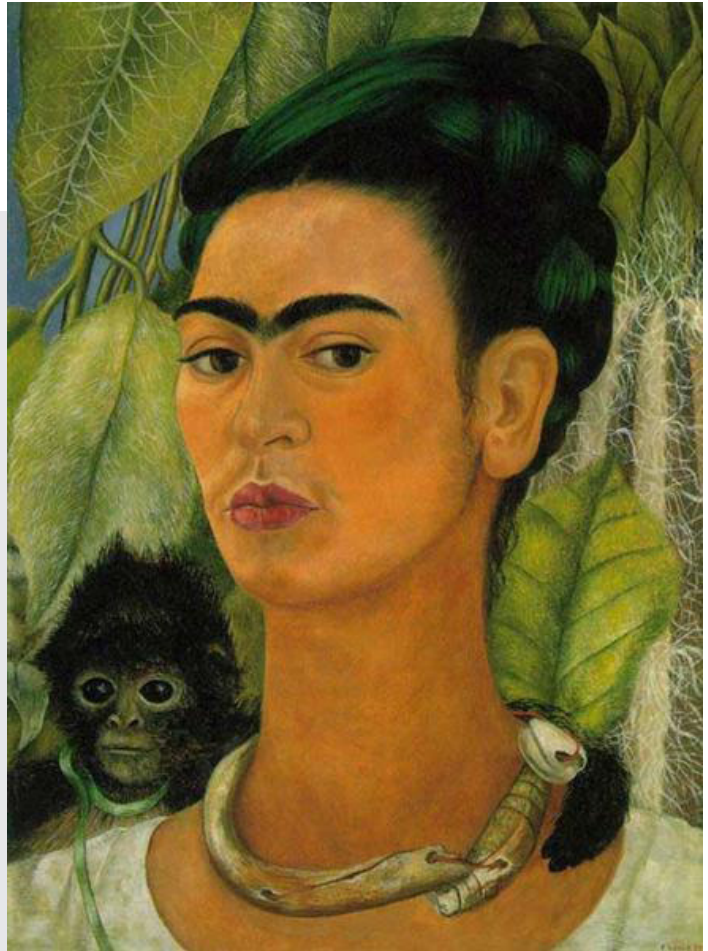
Book Overview

As playful and lighthearted as it is serious, this book takes an honest and reflective look at Frida's life. It does not gloss over her struggles, but focuses on her determination and the way art helped Frida through difficult times. Winter guides the reader through a discovery of Frida's work, explaining how deeply personal her practice was, and also much Mexican culture influenced her work.



Element of the Month: Color

The element of the month is color. Color is a way that we describe an object based on how it emits or reflects light. Frida Kahlo had a unique way of engaging with color, and the colors she used in her work often reflected her environment.



Self Portrait with a Monkey, 1938, oil on panel



Discussion Questions: Work 01

What do you think the woman is wearing around her neck?

Why do you think there is a monkey in the painting?

What are some of the main colors in this painting?

Where do you think the woman in the painting is? A garden? A forest?

How do you think the woman in the painting is feeling?



Roots, 1943, oil on panel



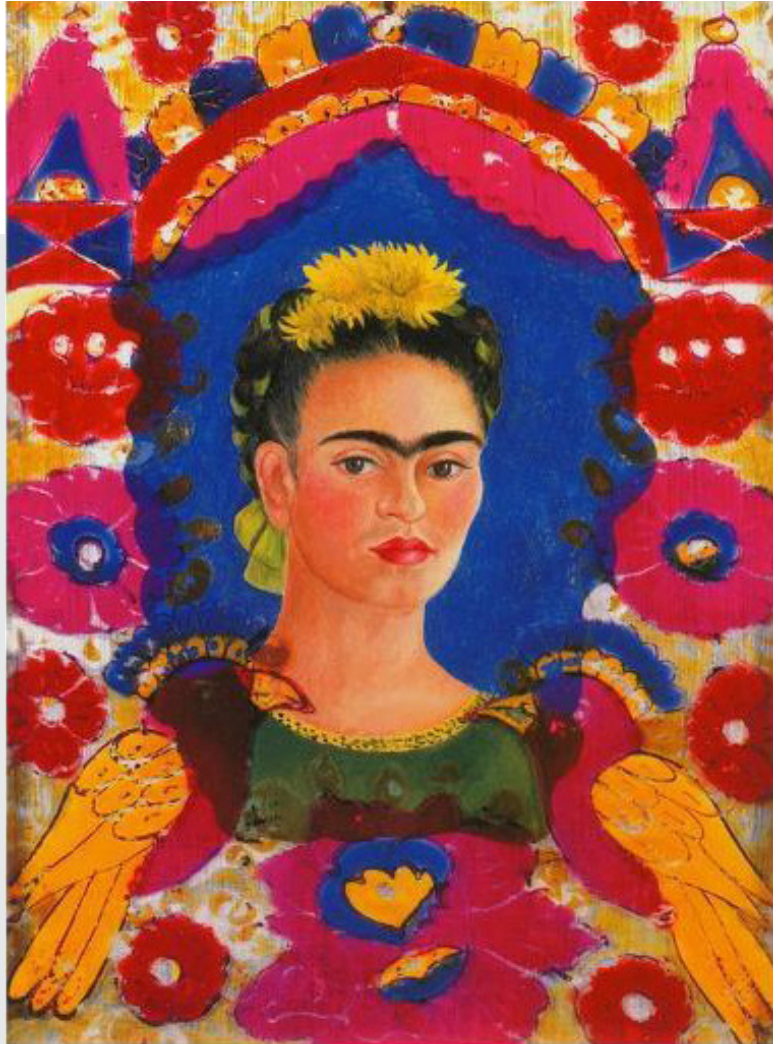
Discussion Questions: Work 02

Do you think the woman in the painting is alone?

What is going through and around the woman's body?

How do the colors in this painting make it feel different from the last one?

What is your favorite part of this painting?



The Frame, 1938, oil on glass



Discussion Questions: Work 03

Notice the unique border around the woman in the painting.

What are some colors, shapes, and figures you can spot in the border?

What is your favorite thing about this painting?

How does the blue background behind Frida make you feel?



Artist-inspired Projects

Artist-inspired Activity 01—Jungle Self-Portrait. The first famous work you and your child(ren) looked at this month was Frida's *Self-Portrait with a Monkey*. The background of her painting includes beautiful and detailed leaves. Your child will create a similar leaf background using construction paper in a variety of colors.

For this activity, you will need markers, glue, scissors, a printed photo of your child, and green, blue, brown, and white construction paper. Have your child cut out leaves in a variety of sizes from the green and blue construction paper. If you need to draw some leaf shapes on the paper for them to cut out, that is okay. To make the veins on the leaves, your child can either draw them onto the leaves with markers or a white colored pencil, or they can cut thin strips of veins from the brown or white construction paper then glue them onto the leaves.

Once all of the leaves are made, have your child glue their leaves onto a piece of uncut white construction paper in a layout that seems both natural and beautiful to them. It may be helpful to go outside and observe some nearby trees if you can. But remember, their idea of natural and beautiful will probably be different than yours. As long as they are thoughtful about it, let them make the arrangement they want. Have your child notice how the leaves are shaped, their varied colors, how they fall and interact with each other. Notice the detail in Frida's painting--how the veins are white and diversely patterned. Encourage your child to emulate that in their own project! When they have completed their leaf background, ask them to cut out the background from the photo of them that you printed, then ask your child to glue the photo in the middle of the leaves. They now have their own jungle self portrait.



Artist-inspired Activity 02—Drawing Your Home. Frida Kahlo's home, Casa Azul, was her retreat. She had to spend a great deal of time there, since a car accident limited her mobility. At the end of this unit, in Recommended Products, you will find a short video tour of Frida's home. Enjoy watching it with your child. The blue detail all over Frida's home made her feel safe and nurtured. It brought life and joy into her world on a daily basis, and it continues to inspire and delight thousands of visitors every year.

Collect printer paper and markers for this activity. Have your child think about the place where you live and how to draw it. Ask some



questions to spark creative thinking: "What color is our home? If you could paint our home any color you want, what color would you choose? Why would you choose that color? How does that color make you feel?" Now, have your child draw your home. Have them identify a predominant color in your home, or the color they want your home to be, and name your home accordingly (i.e. "Casa Verde," "Casa Roja," etc.) using the color translation at the end of the unit.

Artist-inspired Activity 03—Painting on Glass. One of the famous works you and your child have engaged with in this unit, *The Frame*, was painted on glass. Glass is a very interesting platform to paint on--its transparency interacts with paint, light, and texture in delightful ways.

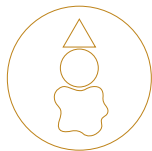
For this activity, collect 3-6 transparencies, printer paper, masking/painters' tape, tempera paint, and paintbrushes. Attach each transparency to a sheet of paper by taping the transparency along the back of each edge and folding the tape over onto the white paper. It may also be helpful to tape the transparencies and paper to the surface your child is painting on, to keep their artwork still as they paint. Look at the *The Frame* together, and have your child select one pattern from the border to copy. They might choose a repeated shape, such as circles, semicircles, or one of the flower shapes, or they might prefer an abstract pattern. Have them look closely at this element and begin to paint the pattern on a transparency. Your child should complete 3-6 transparencies, filling each with a different pattern. You can come back to this activity again later if they need a break before completing more. Make sure that each transparency is covered with paint before your child moves on to the next one. These works of art will be used again in the next Artist-Inspired Activity, so make sure to store the transparencies in a safe place!

Artist-inspired Activity 04—Stained Glass. Frida was very interested in light, and outside of her paintings and formal artwork, her home was an extension of her creative mind. Everything she encountered was touched by her infinite creativity. Gather together the painted transparencies from the previous activity, scissors, clear packing tape, and masking/painters' tape, and bring them to a window in your home that gets plenty of sunlight.

Take the completed and dried transparencies (from the project inspired by *The Frame*), and have your child cut them into shapes of various sizes. Lay the shapes out on a table and help your child attach the pieces together with clear packing tape. Encourage your child to get creative with this! They might like to mix and



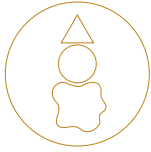
match the different patterns of their transparencies. Once your child has created their 'stained glass' masterpiece, have them use the painters' tape to attach their work to the window. Be sure to have them cover as little of the transparencies as possible with painters' tape, as you want the light to come through, creating a stained glass effect. After your child has taped this up, watch the window together at various times of day. Take note of the light, how it shines through the different colors and shapes, and how it changes in the morning as opposed to the evening.



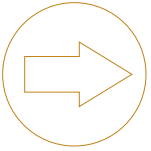
Exploring the Element

Element Activity 01—Color Swatch. Color Swatch. To create their color swatches, your child will need markers, white construction paper, a pencil, scissors, and a tape measure or ruler. With your child, draw twelve 1x1-inch squares on the construction paper, in four rows of three. They should leave a little space beneath each row of squares to write the names of the colors. Have your child use markers to fully color in each square with a different color from the list below. Ask your child to write the name of each color below the corresponding square in English and Spanish (give them as much help as they need with writing), then have them cut out the squares with their labels intact. Together, use painters' tape to stick each color swatch to an object in the room of that color, and practice saying the Spanish names for the colors of the objects. Go back a few times during the day, or as long as you are willing to leave the swatches up, and practice the names of the colors in Spanish. Discuss the colors with your child: "Which of these colors is your favorite? Is there one that is harder for you to say in Spanish than the others?" Can you and your child weave the Spanish into your use of colors in everyday life?

Element Activity 02—Frida's Flowers. You will need: White tissue paper, rubber bands, watercolors, paint jars, paintbrushes, and a plastic tablecloth or tray to protect your work surface. First, have your child separate out one piece of white tissue paper and lay it out flat on their work surface. Next, help your child mix a variety of their favorite vibrant colors in the paint jars. How do they make their pink a bit more purple? What color do they need to drop into the yellow to make orange? Allow your child to practice mixing lots of fun colors. Next, instruct your child to brush or drip colors onto their tissue paper covering the entire sheet, letting some of the different colors mix together to get a "tie-dye" effect. Repeat with several pieces of tissue paper, and set out to dry completely. Once



the paper is dry, help your child gather the tissue in the middle to form a flower, allowing for several inches of the middle to become the "stem." Secure with a rubber band, and repeat with all of the vibrantly colored tissue paper to form a bouquet of flowers for Frida.



Extension Activities

Mexican-Style Vegetable Fried Rice. Frida Kahlo loved to host parties and gatherings--she always had a revolving cast of family and guests in her home. Her stepdaughters remember these events fondly. Make this Mexican-style fried rice (see recipe at the end of this unit) with your child and maybe even invite a friend over! You can even display some of your child's artwork from this unit during your party and use the color words in Spanish as you all discuss the art.



Group Activities

Group Activity 01—Mexican Nursery Rhyme. Frida Kahlo spent the majority of her childhood in Mexico City and was deeply involved in the local culture. Experience a bit of her childhood culture by learning a Mexican nursery rhyme. Use your hand to show the number of elephants in the rhyme, starting with five and working down to one, teaching your child to do the same.

Cinco Elefantitos / Five Little Elephants

*Cinco elefantitos, éste se cayó,
Cuatro elefantitos, éste se perdió,
Tres elefantitos, éste se enfermó,
Dos elefantitos, éste se murió.
Ahora queda uno, uno se quedó,
Y este elefantito, ¡me lo llevo yo!
¡Me lo llevo yo!*

Five little elephants, this one fell down,
Four little elephants, this one lost its way,
Three little elephants, this one got sick,
Two little elephants, this one passed away.
Now one is left, one did stay,
And this little elephant, I'll take it away!
I'll take it away!



Group Activity 02—Family Tree. Frida Kahlo spent a lot of time with her family and was deeply influenced by them. Each one of her family members impacted her in a different way. For this activity, children will create a family tree and reflect on how they have been shaped by their family. The materials you will need for this activity are construction paper, markers, colored pencils, and pencils.

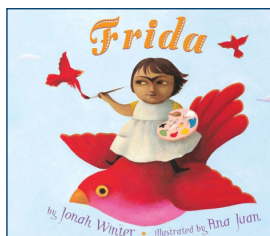
There are a couple of different ways you can approach this project. You can guide the children to make the lines that make up the tree before they begin adding their family, or you can make a tree in advance and make a copy for each of the children. In that case, they can work on the photocopy and glue their finished tree onto construction paper for added color. You may even wish to create one of your own family as an example beforehand. Make sure you have provisions to accommodate the different ways the children's families might appear on the tree.

Invite the children to create their family tree for their immediate family (parents or guardians, and siblings). The number of tree branches may match the number of family members the child has, or they may choose to have more branches than family members. If a child has no siblings, they may include extended family members that they consider "immediate" family, or even pets.

Have the children choose to either write the name of each family member, or draw a small picture of them on one of the tree's branches. Underneath each family member's name or picture, have the children write one thing that they love about that family member, or one way that that family member has influenced them. Assist children who may need help with the writing or placement elements. When they are all finished, go around the room and have each child briefly share their family tree and the ways that their family members have influenced them.



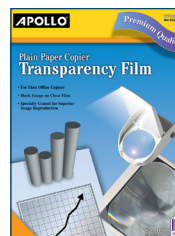
Materials



Frida



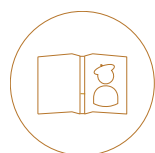
White Tissue Paper



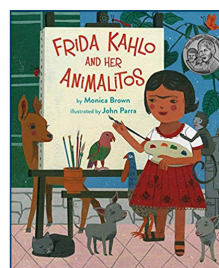
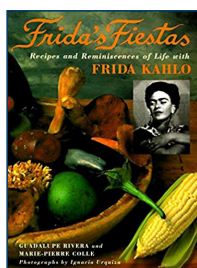
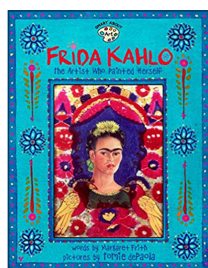
Transparencies, 3-6

Clear Packing Tape
Mexican Fried Rice Tools and Ingredients
Paint Jars
Printed Photo of Your Child
Rubber Bands
Window
Construction Paper, in Green, Blue, Brown, and White
Glue

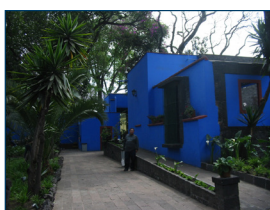
Markers
Paintbrushes
Painter's Tape
Pencil
Printer Paper
Protective Tablecloth or Tray
Ruler, or Tape Measure
Scissors
Tempera Paint
Watercolors



Additional Books about the Artist



Recommended Products



Take a short tour of Frida Kahlo's home



Kaleidoscope



Color-In Stained Glass



Mexican-Style Vegetable Fried Rice

INGREDIENTS

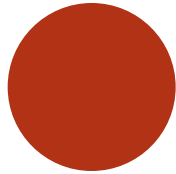
3-5 green onions/shallots
2 cloves garlic
Splash of sesame oil
Splash of rice vinegar
½ cup carrots
1 stem broccoli - chopped
3 peppers - orange, red, green
1 leeks
½ teaspoon cayenne
Handful of fresh basil
½ teaspoon ginger
One can corn
One can of refried beans
6 cups of cooked white rice
Cilantro for garnish
Sour Cream

PROCEDURE

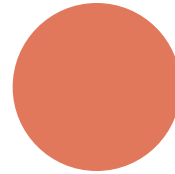
Char the leeks and green onions slightly in a skillet with the sesame oil and rice vinegar. Add garlic, peppers, cayenne and basil. Let cook for 3-5 minutes. Add remaining ingredients and let saute until thoroughly browned. Separately, cook 6 cups of white rice. If you can freeze the rice the day before that is better, but fresh cooked rice is better. Mix rice and cooked vegetables together. Serve, and add spoonfuls of corn, refried beans to side and cilantro and sour cream as a garnish! Enjoy with a glass of lemonade!



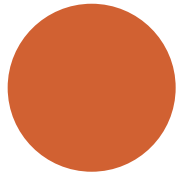
Spanish Color Vocabulary



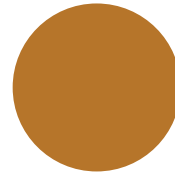
Rojo—red



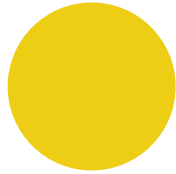
Rosado—pink



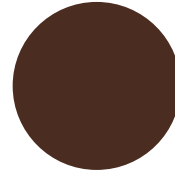
Anaranjado—orange



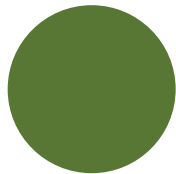
Dorado—gold



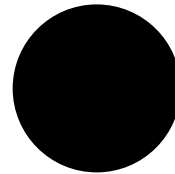
Amarillo—yellow



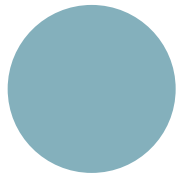
Marrón—brown



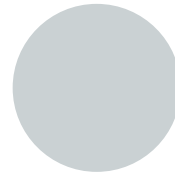
Verde—green



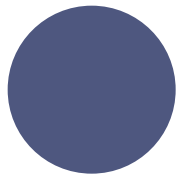
Negro—black



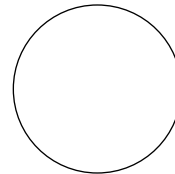
Azul—blue



Gris—grey



Púrpura—purple



Blanco—white

Expressions of Gratitude

Thanks to my dear friends Maggie and Betsi, who traveled to Mexico City with me and fell in love with Frida Kahlo. Thanks to my sweet Morro Bay tribe for listening to me talk about Frida Kahlo - and art in general - all the time, and listening with supportive and kind ears. Thanks to my wonderful parents, who taught me that art and music and culture and beauty are the fiber of life.

References

[Draw Frida Kahlo](#)

[Fun for Spanish Teachers](#)

[The Frame](#)

[Roots](#)

[Self-Portrait with a Monkey](#)