

Activity: Triangle Art

Create a colorful painting with painter's tape using bold shapes, lines, and color as your inspiration.



Robert Indiana, born Robert Clark, is an American painter known for his bold colors and shapes and for exploring American history and literature in his work. In this piece, the centermost ring includes the words CALUMET, which is a tobacco pipe used by Native Americans, and PUKWANA, which means “the curling smoke of the peace pipe” in Ojibwa. These meanings are reinforced by the communal gathering of yellow rings inscribed with the names of many Native American tribes.

The names of tribes and the text in the large, outer ring quotes the first lines of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s 1855 poem the Song of Hiawatha, a popular, romantic story of a Native American hero.

What do these colors and shapes make you think of? What shapes and colors would you use to represent something about yourself?

For more information about this artwork click [here](#).

Robert Indiana, 1961 *The Calumet*, 1971, from *Decade Portfolio*, screenprint, 39 in. x 32 in, The Henry Melville Fuller

Materials:

- White paper or canvas
- Paint or other coloring supplies
- Painter’s tape
- Markers (optional)

Directions:

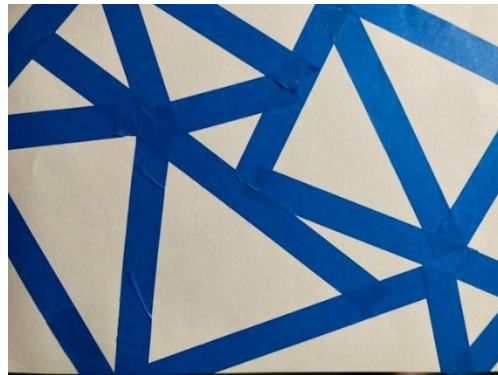
- Use the painter’s tape to create lines on your paper or canvas. Add more tape to create triangular shapes in the white space of the paper.
- Use paint or other coloring supplies to fill in the areas not covered by tape.
- After the paint dries, remove the tape.
- If desired, use markers or other coloring tools to layer more triangular shapes on top of the ones already created by the paint and tape.

Tips:

- Experiment with different shapes. Can you create stars like Robert Indiana did?

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