



In this lesson, we will study an important principle of design (art)—*center of interest* or *emphasis*. The center of interest is where we first look when viewing a picture or work of art. First, we'll look at master artists, and see how they use this principle of design in their artwork. Then we'll apply this principle to create a center of interest in our own pictures. In Project 1, we'll draw some frogs with the center of interest in the foreground. In Project 2, we'll draw a cartoon frog and have some fun with center of interest. In Project 3, we'll apply that design principle to make a 3D frog caller—Ribbit! Ribbit!

#### Masterpieces Referenced:

The Lady of Shalott, by John William Waterhouse • 1888



The Jolly Flatboatman by George Caleb Bingham • 1877-78



Boatmen on the Missouri by George Caleb Bingham • 1846



**“To the beautiful belongs an endless variety. It is seen not only in symmetry and elegance of form, in youth and health, but is often quite as fully apparent in decrepit old age. It is found in the cottage of the peasant as well as the palace of kings.”**

— George Caleb Bingham

**Center of Interest:**

Usually the first thing you notice, the *center of interest* is the main focus of a drawing, painting or photograph, also known as focal point. The center of interest does not have to be the center of an art piece; however, it is the key element that defines it, and its interest is not diminished through other competing elements within the same artwork. It can be achieved through various means, including contrast, value, color, composition, placement of an interesting subject or complementing a creation with objects or other areas that draw the viewer's attention to the focal point. For example, an artist may highlight an area with bright red in a photo to achieve this effect. Look at the pictures right and find their center of interest.



**Sharon's Literature Inspiration:**



Casting, Number Two  
Winslow Homer • 1894



**No center of interest:** Compare Jackson Pollock's "all-over" method of drip and splash painting to the pictures above. Pollock's "Autumn Rythym" painting below is void of any clear and distinct points of emphasis. Looking at the painting, does your eye first land in one dominant area or jump around?

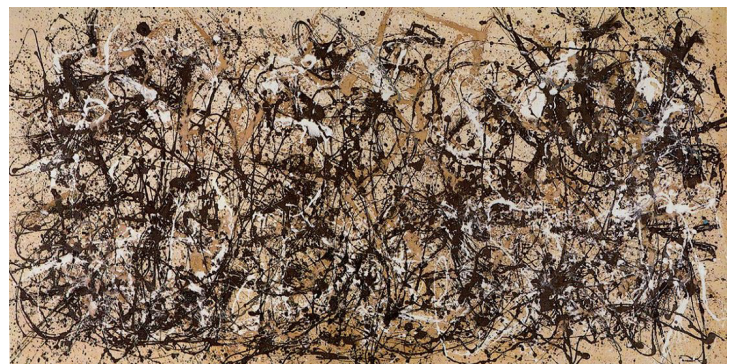
**Bible Lessons:**

**Ephesians 6:1**

Children, obey your parents in the LORD, for this is right.

**1 Samuel 16:7**

Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.



**“My paintings do not have a center, but depend on the same amount of interest throughout.”**

— Jackson Pollock

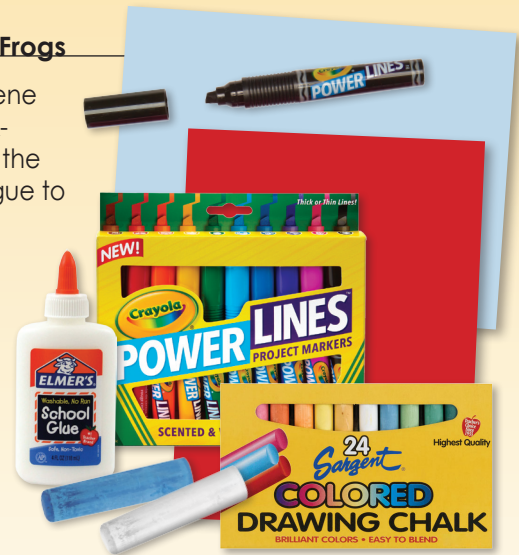


## Project 1: Riverboat & Frogs

Create a whimsical river scene with a riverboat in the background & two large frogs in the foreground. Add a red tongue to a frog for center of interest.

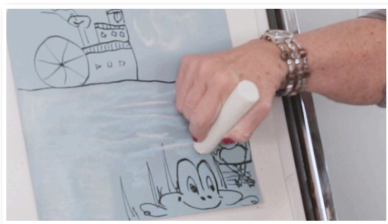
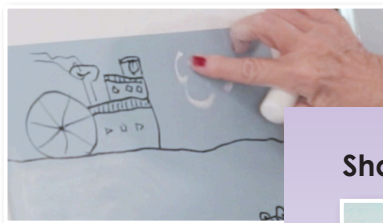
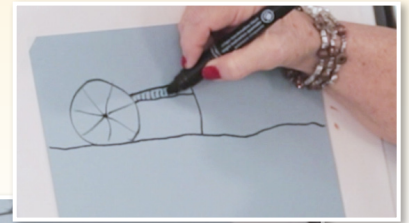
### Materials List:

- Blue Construction Paper
- Markers
- Drawing Chalk
- Red Construction Paper
- Glue (bottle or stick)



### Let's get started...

1. With your paper horizontal, begin by drawing a horizon line 2/3 up from the bottom of page with a black marker.
2. Draw a riverboat in the background on the water (see page 6 for step-by-step drawing instructions).
3. Next, create the frogs in the foreground by drawing a letter "M" for the first frog and then the eyes. Then, draw the frog legs, a mouth and nose. Add blades of grass around your frog.
4. Draw a log to the right of the first frog for your second frog to sit on. Draw a circle for the head and two smaller circles on top for the eyes. Add dots to the eyes and add a mouth. Next, draw an oval for the body, then arms & legs.
5. With blue and white chalk, shade in your water with horizontal strokes and blend together with your fingers. Add clouds to the sky.
6. Color in the riverboat and frogs with markers. Glue a red, curled strip of construction paper for the tongue (center of interest) onto the frog which is sitting on the log.



### Sharon's Sample Artwork:





## Project 2: Cartoon Frog

Create a charming cartoon frog complete with musical notes and a bright red tongue—center of interest.

### Materials List:

- White Paper (9" x 12")
- Markers
- Wiggly Eyes



### Let's get started...

1. With your paper vertical, begin drawing the frog's body by making an uppercase "C" with a black marker.
2. Next, draw two circles on top on the body for the eyes, and an open mouth with tongue so the frog is singing. Draw a top hat on the frog.
3. Draw dancing legs on the frog with one of them kicking out. Add the dancing arms and two dots for the nose.
4. Next, draw a horizontal line for your horizon. Add a cane to the dancing frog's hand. Finish by adding musical notes.
5. Now we'll start coloring the frog with markers. First make the tongue bright red (center of interest) and add color to the rest of the frog. Have fun by adding pants or even an umbrella if you want.
6. Finish by adding wiggly eyes to the frog.



### Sharon's Sample Artwork:



### BONUS:

There is a very funny and famous cartoon about a frog who could sing. Visit the link below and you can watch the video of the dancing, singing frog:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfrjzpkpzCyg>



## Project 3: Frog Caller

Create some fun and noise with this 3D Frog Caller, complete with construction paper legs and a bright red tongue for the center of interest.

### Materials List:

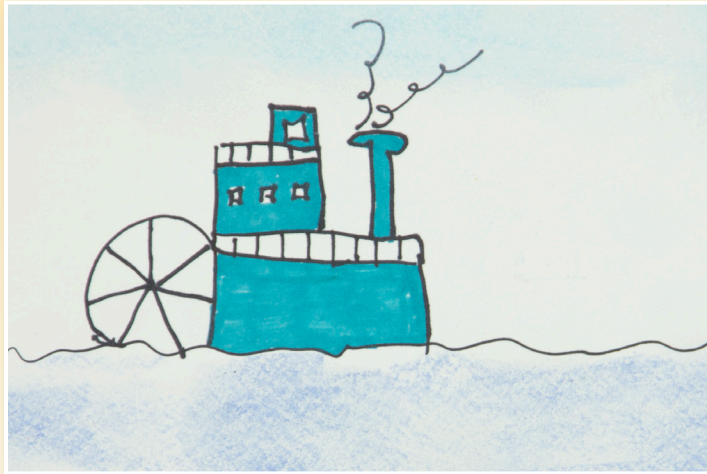
- Paper Plate
- Green Tempera Paint
- Scissors
- Oil Pastels
- Paper Towel Roll
- Green & Red Construction Paper
- Clear Tape or Glue



### Let's get started...

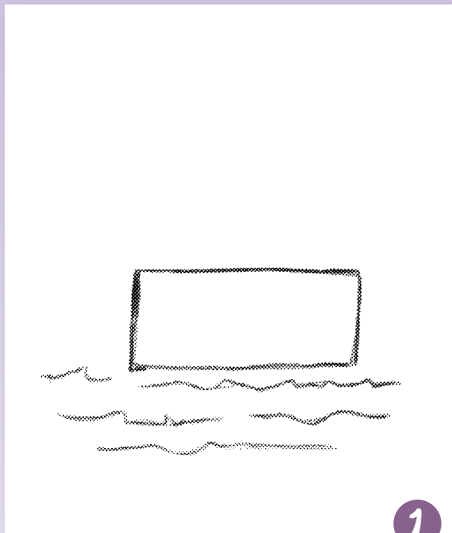
1. Paint the back side of a paper plate with green tempera paint. Once dry, cut a rounded "v" shape out of the plate for the top of the frog. Also, cut a hole in the middle of the plate the same size as the empty paper towel roll.
2. Now let's add the face of the frog with oil pastels. Above the cut circle draw two black dots for the nose.
3. With the yellow and black pastels, draw eyes. Add speckles, circles, swirls or other designs for the texture of the frog's skin.
4. Next, wrap the paper towel roll with green construction paper and tape it into place.
5. Cut a 1" wide strip of red construction paper and then roll it up making a soft curl. Push part of the red paper into the hole and tape (or glue) it on the back of the plate.
6. Cut 1" strips of green construction paper and then accordion style fold them every 1" or so. Make four accordion folded strips—two for the legs and two for the arms. Flip your plate over and tape the arms and legs onto the back. Glue will also work to attach the arms and legs.
7. Insert your green construction paper covered roll into the plate's circle. If the opening is too small for the roll to fit, use scissors to cut a few small slits into the sides of the circle and then slide your roll into place.



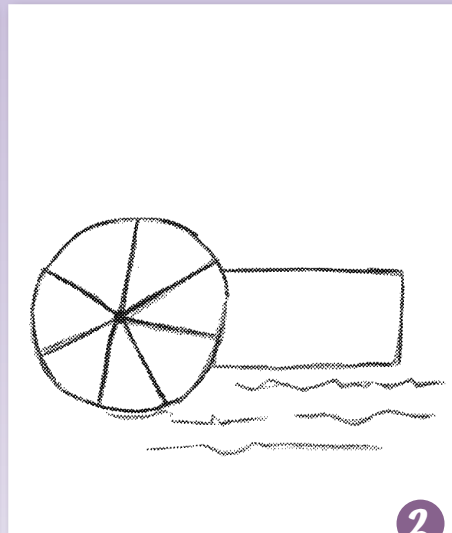


**Step-by-Step STEAMBOAT Drawing**

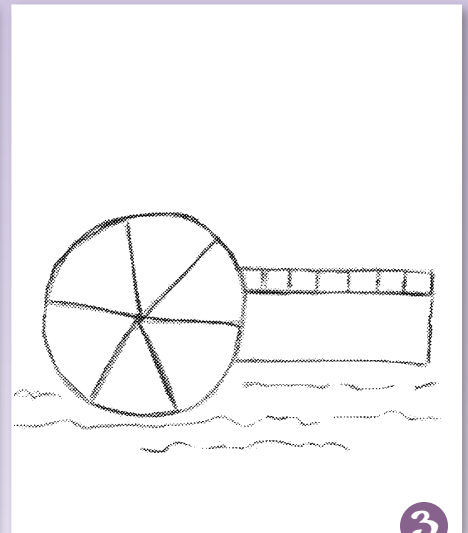
1. Draw wavy lines for water and a rectangle for the boat base.
2. Draw a circle for the paddle wheel. Add a dot in the center, and then radial lines from the center.
3. Draw a horizontal line near the top of rectangle with vertical lines for a railing.
4. Add a smaller rectangle for another level on your riverboat and draw three windows.
5. Then, repeat step 3 to make a railing on the second level. Add a captain's room on top.
6. Finish by drawing a smoke stack with steam coming out of the top.



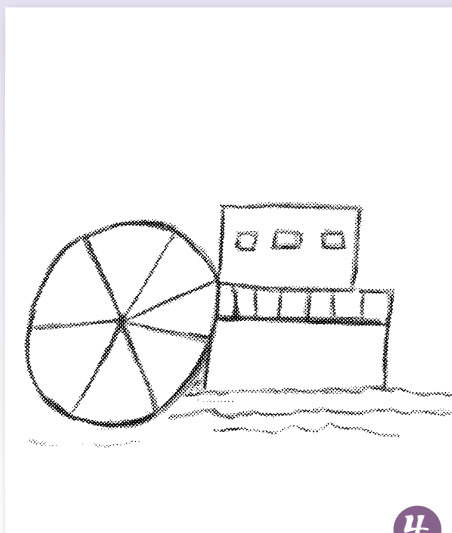
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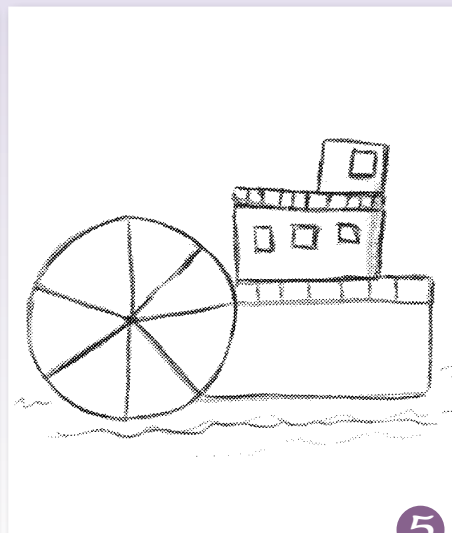
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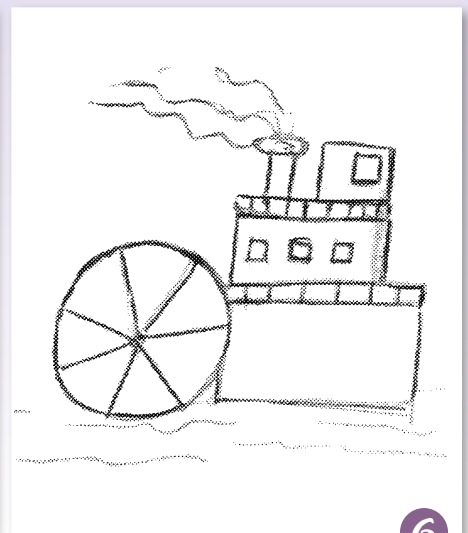
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4



5



6

*Project 1:* Sharon's Finished Artwork



Project 1: Students' Finished Artwork

Avery • Age 4



Cadence • Age 10



Project 2: Sharon's Finished Artwork



Project 2: Students' Finished Artwork



Avery • Age 4



Cadence • Age 10

Project 3: Students' Finished Artwork



Avery • Age 4



Cadence • Age 10