

How did Georges Seurat use paint and colour to create images?

**Art**  
**Georges Seurat (painting)**

**Teaching focus:** Using colours to create an image  
**Learning lens:** Painting  
**Class:** Year 3

**Previous Knowledge**

Kandinsky study (Y1)  
Leroy Neiman (Y2)

**Project Hook or 'Wow' memory**

**The key skills we want pupils to use during this topic:**

Use a variety of media (including felt-tips and paints) to create work using pointillism.

Use tone and shade

**Learning Steps**

**Key Knowledge (answers)**

**Who was Georges Seurat and what did he do?**

Born Paris 1859. Studied art at a local college. Conventional art training, copying old masters and casts of sculptures. His first major work was rejected by the Paris salon, so he joined a group of independent artists where his pointillism ideas developed. Heavily influenced by colour theories of optical effects and perception. He died aged just 31. Post-impressionist.

**What art did Georges Seurat create and what techniques did he use? Give an opinion of his art work.**

He used dot technique (pointillism) to overlap the primary colours to give the impression of the secondary colours from a distance. Famous works include A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte. This painting took over 2 years to complete and is 3metres wide. He made over 60 preliminary sketches in the park before completing it!

**What are primary, secondary, tertiary and complementary colours? (Use colour specific language, mix colours)**

Primary colours are red, yellow and blue. Secondary colours are purple, green and orange. Tertiary colours are made by mixing primary and secondary colours together. Complementary colours are on opposite sides of the wheel.

**How did Seurat 'blend' colours? (Experiment with effects)**

Make the dots as close together as you can and about the same size. Don't blend them together. Use lighter colours and add shading by using darker dots.

**How do I change the tone or make shadows using Seurat's techniques? (Use colour specific language, mix colours)**

Lighten or darken by adding white or black dots of paint, or use fewer dots to create lighter tones and more dots to achieve darker tones.

**I can create my own piece of Seurat-inspired artwork.**

Use Georges Seurat pointillism skills to create final piece.  
Reflection

**Key vocabulary**

post-Impressionist

Post-Impressionism is an **exaggerated form of impressionism**. These paintings focus on what the viewer might see if they only caught a glimpse of a scene. Post-Impressionist artists commonly used rural scenes and everyday subjects for their paintings.

Pointillism

A **painting technique** developed by the artist George Seurat. It involves using small, painted dots to create areas of colour that together form a pattern or picture.

Primary, secondary, tertiary and complementary colours

Primary colours are red, yellow and blue. Secondary colours are purple, green and orange. Tertiary colours are made by mixing primary and secondary colours together. Complementary colours are on opposite sides of the wheel.

Hue and shade

Hue is another name for colour. A shade is **where an artist adds black to a colour to darken it down**.

**Final outcome**

Create a piece of art work inspired by Georges Seurat using paint or other media.

Supported with outlines of fruit/ flowers/ birds/ landscapes to remove the skill needed in drawing.

