# Jackson Pollock Drip-Painting Art Lesson Plan

**Learning Segment Focus or “Big Idea”:** It is important for students to learn about artists and their works. In this lesson, students will learn that painting can emote different feelings/meaning and that art is not always comprised of defined objects. Students will reflect on the style of painting that Jackson Pollock became most famous for and have the opportunity to try their hand at drip painting on a canvas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade: Kindergarten</th>
<th>Content Area: Visual Arts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time Allotted: 1 hour</td>
<td>Classroom organization: Whole Group, small group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Resources and materials:** Images of reproductions of Pollock’s works, Jackson Pollock by Hans Namuth – YouTube video, canvas (canvases), ordinary house paints, and wood paint stirrers. Optional: tarp or garbage bags, smocks or plastic ponchos, paint booties

**VAPA Standard(s):**
Kindergarten Visual Arts 4.2: Describe what is seen in selected works of art.
Kindergarten Visual Arts 1.3: Identify the elements in works of art, emphasizing line, color, and shape/form.
Kindergarten Visual Arts 1.2: Name art materials (e.g., clay, paint, and crayons) introduced in lessons.
Kindergarten Visual Arts 2.5: Use lines in paintings to express feelings.
Kindergarten Visual Arts 4.4: Give reasons why they like a particular work of art they made.
*The first and second grade standards under the same strands would be easily adaptable for this lesson except the 2 strand, for 1st grade use 2.4 and for 2nd grade use 2.4.*

**Learning Objectives:**
- Students will learn how to make a drip painting on canvas. By the end of the lesson, students will create a collaborative class drip painting on three canvases that will all hang next to each other.

**Activity:**
The teacher will recall the book read the prior day and ask students what type of painting Action Jackson did and why he was called Action Jackson. After a few responses, the teacher will ask the students what materials Jackson used and make a list on the board. Then the teacher will ask students if they think that paintings can be messy and creative at the same time and have different meanings for different people. After a few responses, the teacher will explain that today during centers, students will rotate through 1 art station outside where they will have a chance to try drip painting on canvas. Other regular (non-art) centers will occur during this time as well.
The teacher will be the adult at the art station and explain the following to each group:
- We wear smocks and booties to protect our uniforms from the paint.
- You may only work with one color at a time.
- Before you choose a color, visualize in your mind any shapes or colors that make you feel a certain way.
- Choose a color, take the paint stirrer and slowly drizzle and drip the color onto the canvas using a motion with your hand depending on how you are feeling. (The teacher will model for students with an empty stirrer different types of motions and how to hold the stirrer over the canvas.)

Students will be given approximately 5 minutes to choose colors and drip paint. After finishing they will remove protective wear and if time permits, discuss together how this type of painting is different from other painting they have done and what they liked most and/or disliked about it.

**Assessment:**
Students will be assessed based on participation and creativity as well as their ability to describe how they felt about painting.

**Closure:**
During closing circle on the day of the activity, students will each state how they felt and what they liked about creating the painting. When the canvases have dried and can be hung on the wall, the students will do a gallery walk and discuss their favorite parts of the painting.

**Homework/Extension:**
The timing of this lesson could be done in conjunction with learning about colors and counting in math. Students could use the colors they are learning about in the canvases they create and count how many colors are used or different shades of colors are used. In 1st and 2nd grade, students could mix the colors to create colors on the canvases and then do addition problems based on shades of colors. Additionally, alternative methods of drip painting could be used in other follow-up art activities. In technology class, students could be asked to use paint apps to create a “Pollock-like” painting on the
iPads.

**Reflection/Next Steps:**
Upon completion of the activity the teacher will reflect on the activity and decide if there are any changes that could be made to improve the activity and/or student understanding.