

# The Nature of Abstract Art



Frank Lloyd Wright was inspired by the Sonoran Desert's long, low sweeping lines, upward-tilting planes, surface patterns in plants and animals, and abstraction in line and color. Wright found color, pattern, and dimension in the rattlesnake, Gila monster, the cholla, saguaro cactus, and in many other plants and animals in the desert. He then incorporated those patterns and lines into his architecture. Frank Lloyd Wright once said, "Study nature, love nature, and stay close to nature. It will never fail you." In this short activity, you will create your own abstract art piece by using nature!



## MATERIALS NEEDED

- Nature's bounty around you—a leaf, flower, rock, wood, etc.
- Graph paper or regular paper
- Pencil & colored pencils
- Geometric shapes: circle, rectangle, square, triangle, oval, etc.
- Magnifying glass (optional)



## Step 1:

The organic material and organisms you observe can be found in almost every backyard! It could be a rock, soil, lizard, flower, or the back of a leaf. Leaves, for example, have very interesting patterns, especially on the underside. When you use your magnifying glass to look at the underside of a leaf, you will notice little pores called stomata. The leaf's stomata are like the pores that humans or animals have on their skin. All living organisms exchange water or gases through their pores. Plants are the same. By using sunlight, plants exchange gases to convert carbon dioxide and water into carbohydrates and oxygen. That process is called photosynthesis.

## Step 2:

Pick one organic material (like a rock or piece of wood) or organism (like a flower or leaf) to draw. Using a piece of graph paper, create an arrangement of geometric shapes on the paper to represent your subject and create an abstract picture. Have fun, be creative, and add some color to it!

