

A Guide to the Colorado Academic Standards



Working Together

To support families and teachers in realizing the goals of the Colorado Academic Standards, this guide provides an overview of the learning expectations for First Grade Visual Arts. This guide offers some learning experiences students may engage in during this school year, experiences that may also be supported at home.

Why Standards?

Created by Coloradans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure students are successful in college, careers, and life. The standards aim to improve what students learn and how they learn in ten content areas – emphasizing critical-thinking, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, and communication as important life skills in the 21st century.

Visual Arts Education for Elementary Schools (k-5)

The visual arts standards in the elementary years focus on General Art knowledge and skills to help create a foundation for artistic study in later years (drawing, painting, sculpture, graphic design, media arts). In each grade k-5, students explore techniques of various artistic styles, follow simple steps in the creation process, learn how to critique works of art, identify art in the world and daily life, and discover ways that artwork helps people better understand cultures and historical eras.

Where can I learn more?

- Contact your school district regarding local decisions related to standards, curriculum, resources, and instruction.
- Colorado Academic Standards Booklets: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/GradeLevelBooks.asp>
- Karol Gates, Colorado Arts Content Specialist at 720-202-9268, Gates_k@cde.state.co.us



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At the end of
First Grade,
students can...

The Colorado Academic Standards in Visual Arts are organized by elements of the Creative Process:
Know/Comprehend → Critique/Evaluate/Refine → Create/Present → Connect/Apply/Transfer

Visual Arts Learning Expectations for First Grade

Observe and Learn to Comprehend (Know/Comprehend)

Use artwork to express/explain feelings; describe the emotions or feelings of a piece of artwork; explain a story that might be found in an artwork.

Envision and Critique to Reflect (Critique/Evaluate/Refine)

Discuss how people make art; explain the steps used to make a (personal) piece of art.

Invent and Discover to Create (Create/Present)

Make art to share their ideas and feelings.

Relate and Connect to Transfer (Connect/Apply/Transfer)

Tell their own story through their artwork.

Throughout the First Grade, you may find students successfully applying the elements of the creative process by...

- Reciting or creating stories from a piece of artwork (using a drawing depicting the *Three Little Pigs* or a wordless picture book).
- Identifying simple feelings in artwork images such as sad/happy, excited/scared.
- Talking about art images and what they mean personally; discussing how artists share ideas/feelings about particular places through the art (a colorful castle or a dark forest).
- Creating pieces of art that express feelings and represent important things; making art with, about, and for others (group collages, pictures of families).

