



LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE ARTIST FRANK BOWLING

Frank Bowling in the liferoom at Royal College of Art by unknown photographer, c.196
Courtesy of the Frank Bowling Archive

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WHO IS FRANK BOWLING?



Frank Bowling is a celebrated contemporary artist known for his vibrant and experimental abstract paintings. Born in Guyana and later working in Britain and the United States, Bowling developed a distinctive style that blends colour, texture, and movement. His work often involves pouring, staining, and layering paint to create rich, atmospheric surfaces that can suggest landscapes, memory, or emotion without depicting them directly. At 92 years old, Frank is still creating exciting, large scale pieces in his studio in London.

SIR FRANK BOWLING: ARRIVAL IN LONDON AND STUDYING IN LONDON

When he was 19, Frank moved to London to live with his uncle Herbie. While living there, Frank visited two art galleries and saw many famous pieces of art. His visit inspired him to study at the Royal College of Art.

[Click here for the video](#) about Sir Frank's arrival in London. Here you can hear Frank's voice.

Frank studied at the Royal College of Art and after finishing his art studies, Frank was awarded the silver medal for painting from the college. Another student, David Hockney, won the gold medal. David also went on to become a very successful artist.



What art galleries have you been too? What did you see? Did you enjoy your visit?

Sketchbook

Stick Frank's piece 'Leafy' 2024 in your sketchbook and answer these questions around the painting.

Write out what colours you can see?

Where is the focal point?
Why do you look here first?

What have you learnt from looking at this work? Have you seen this form of painting before?

What mood do the colours have on the piece? How do the colours make you feel?

What textures can you see?

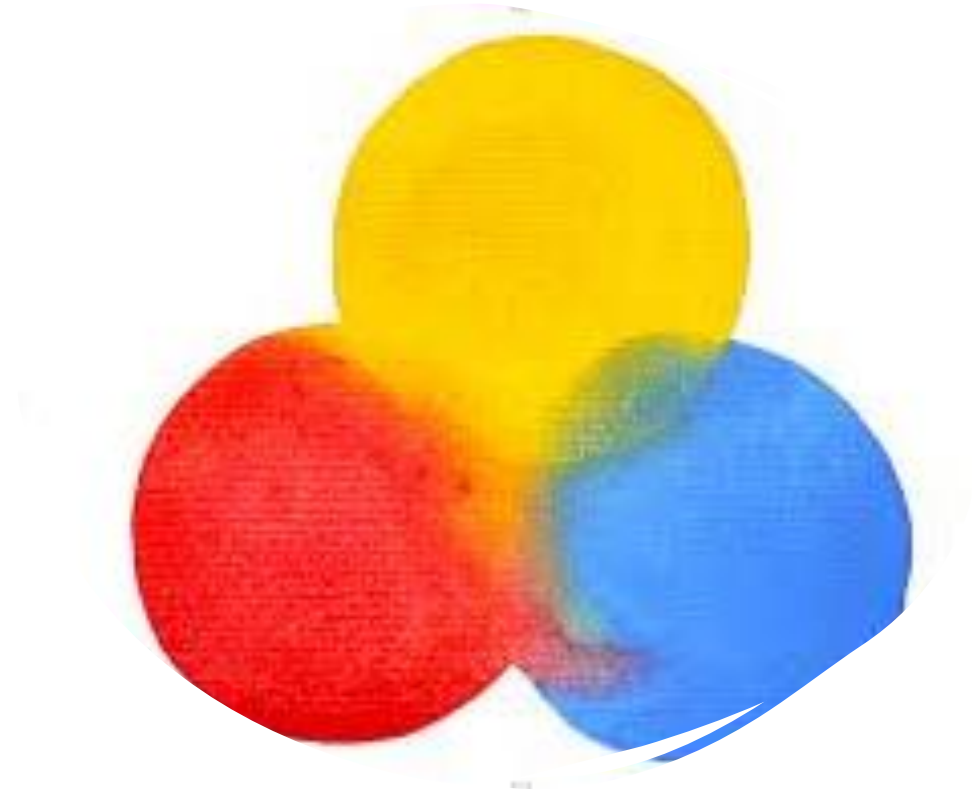


Keywords:
Bright colours
Contrasting colours
Happy colours
Exciting colours
Lines, dashes, splashes
Landscape
Nature
Outdoors

What is the colour wheel?

The colour wheel is made up of primary colours and secondary colours.

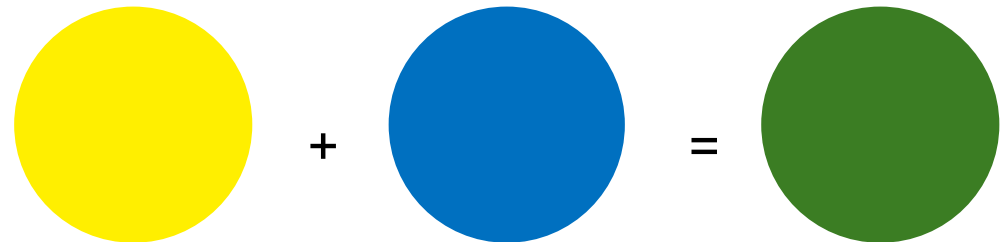
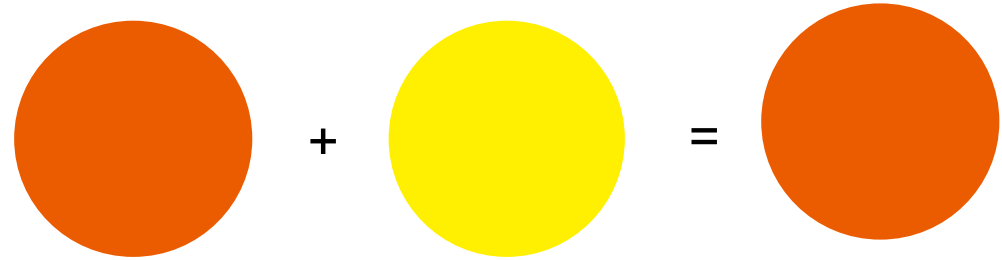
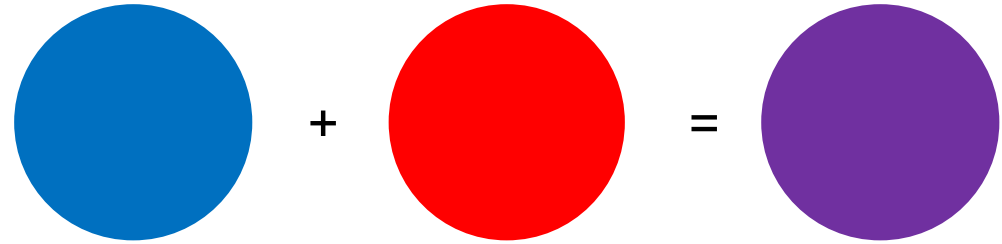
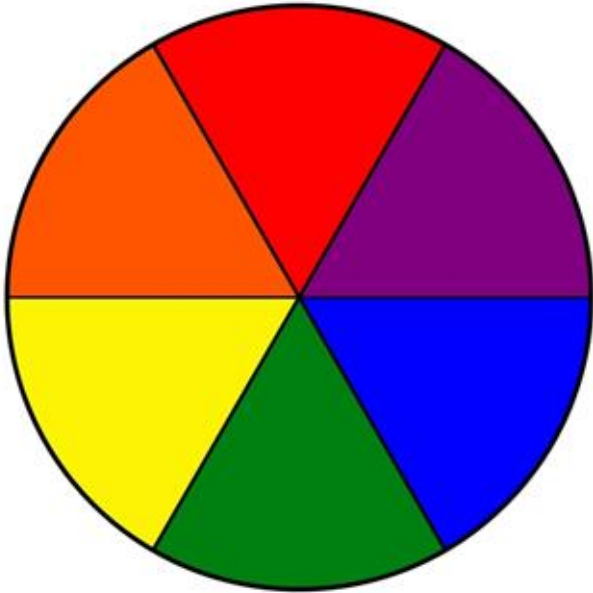
Primary colours are blue, red and yellow. These colours can not be created by mixing other colours



What is the colour wheel?

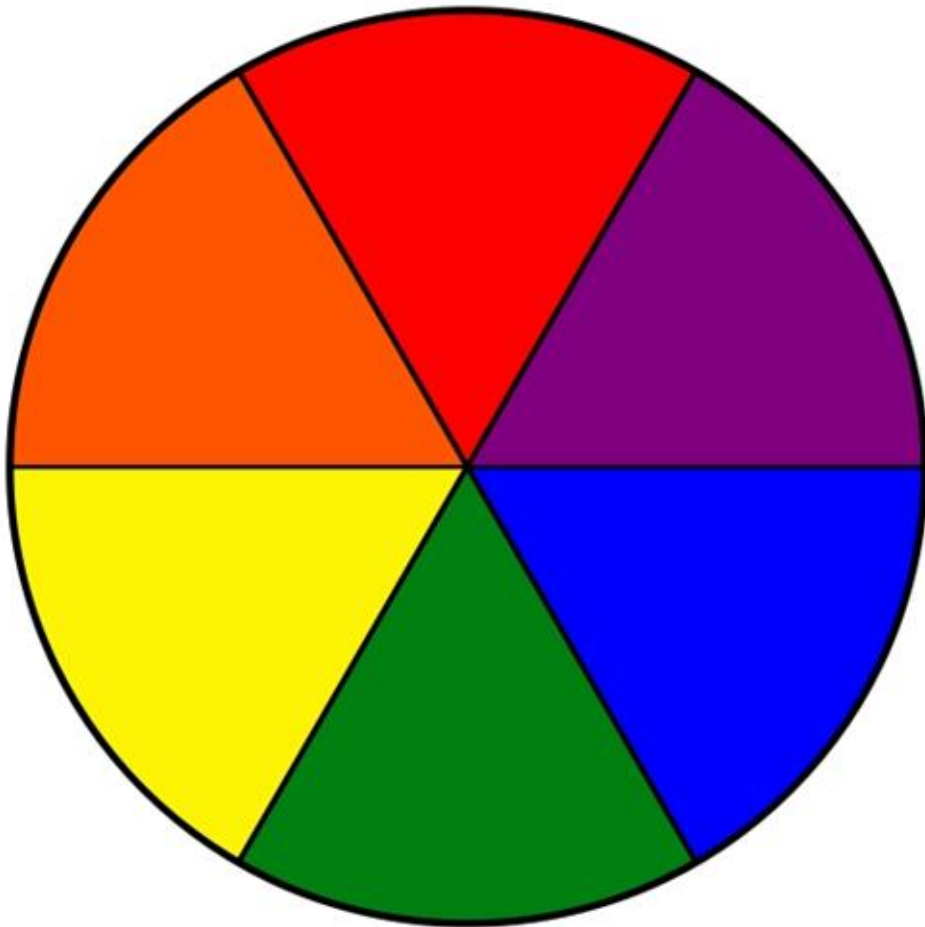
The colour wheel is made up of primary colours and secondary colours.

Secondary colours are green purple and orange and are created by mixing primary colours together

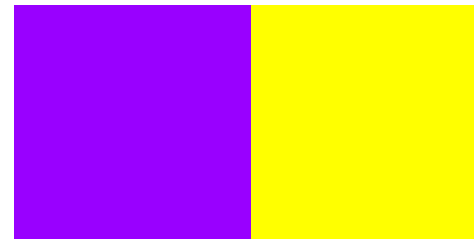
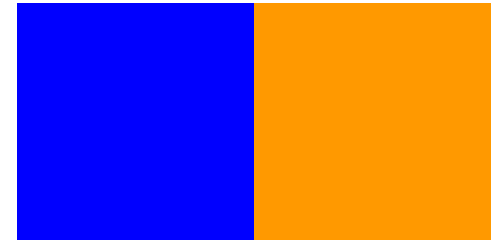
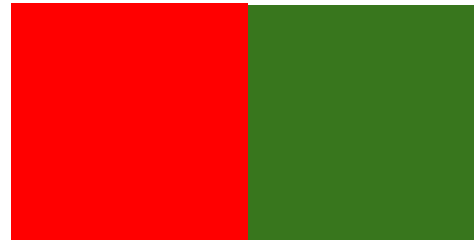


What is the colour wheel?

The colour wheel is made up of primary colours and secondary colours.



Complementary colours sit opposite each other on the colour wheel. They make the colours stand out



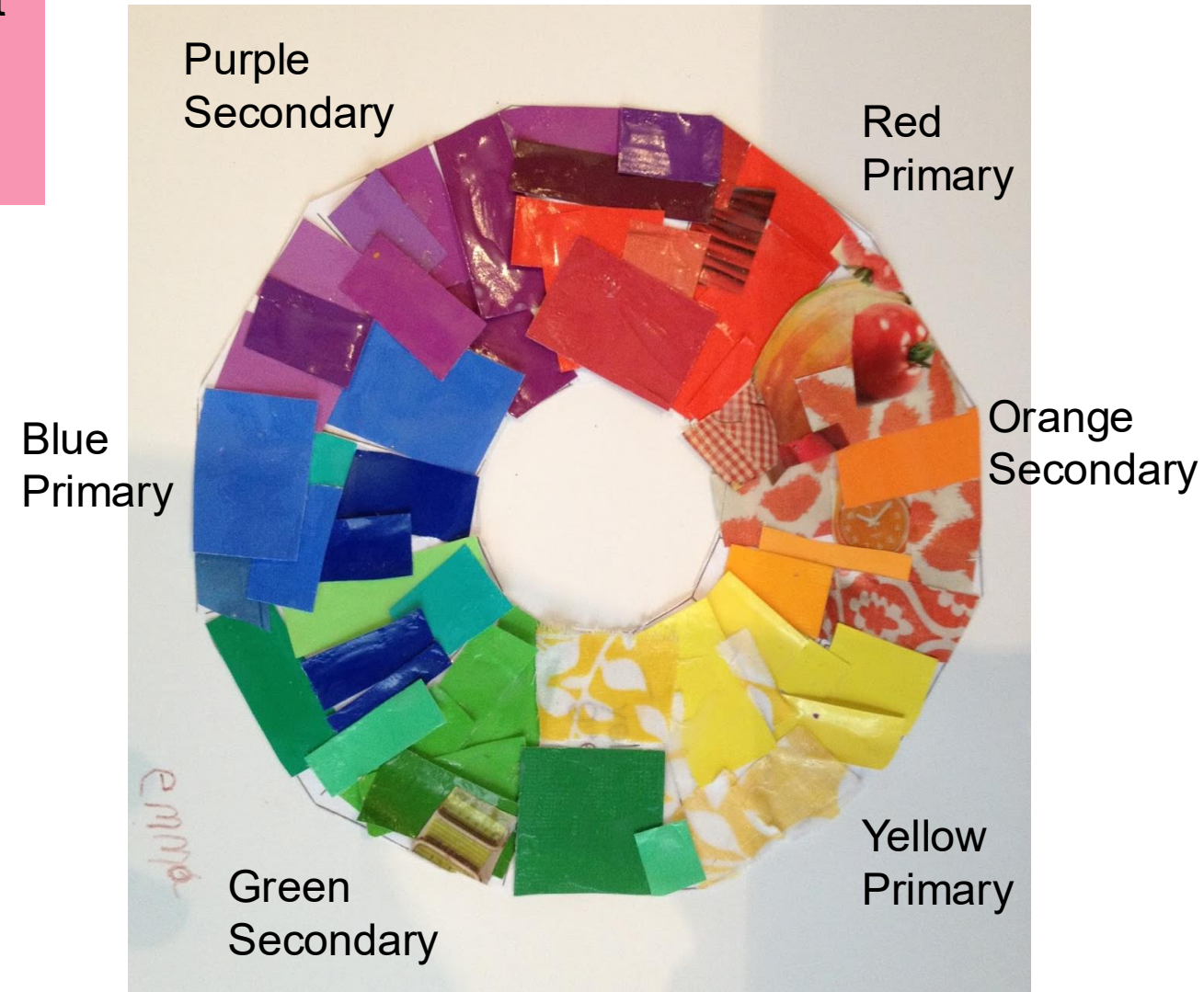
Keywords: Collage

Definition: Collage is a technique involving different pieces of paper, photographs, fabric and other materials where they are arranged and stuck down to a surface.

Sketchbook

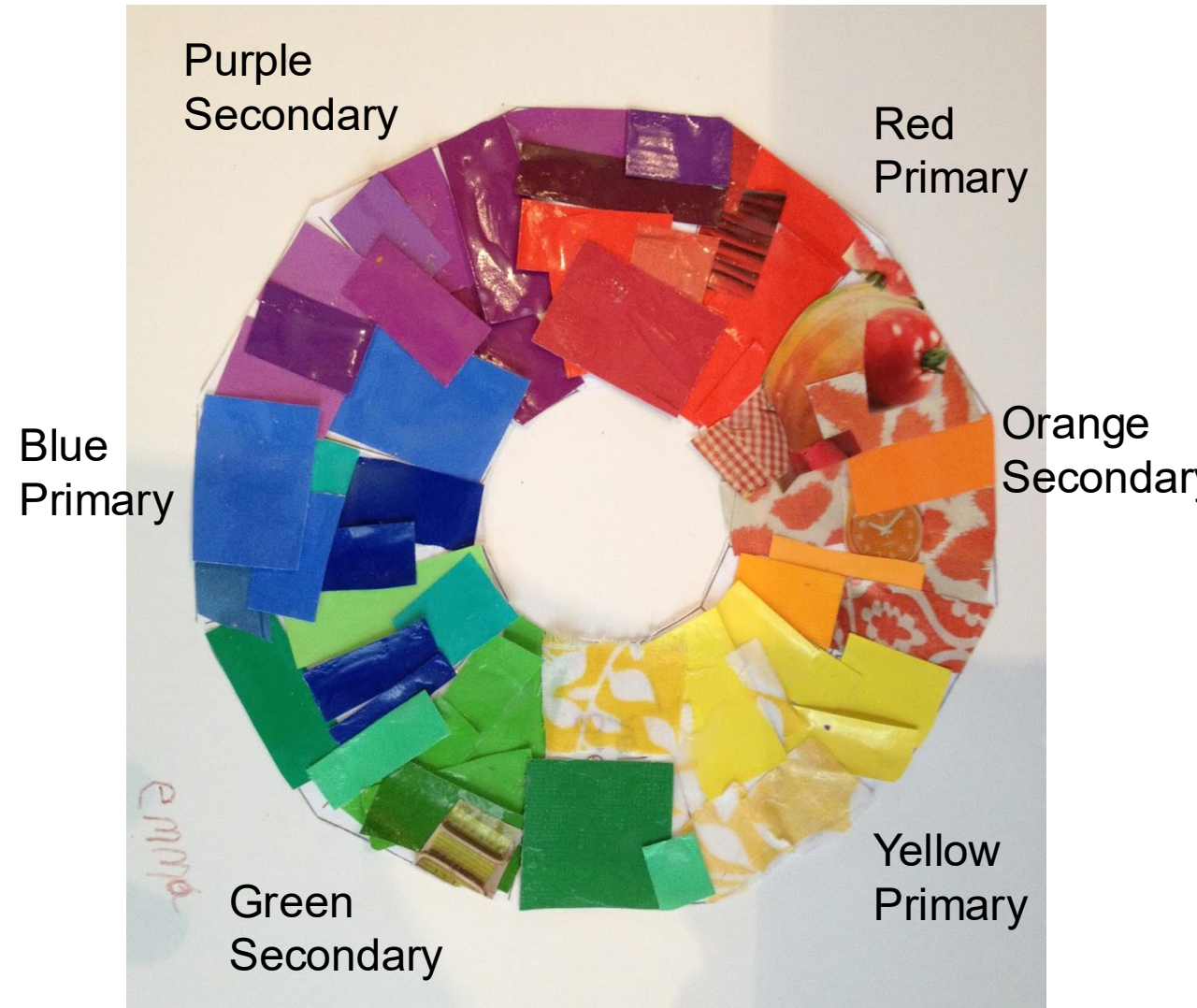
In your sketchbook create a colour wheel using collage.

1. Draw a circle and split your circle into 6 sections
2. Collage each section of colour using the materials available.
3. Must be arranged in the correct order. Hint, your complementary colours must sit opposite each other on the colour wheel.
4. Label your wheel with the names of colours, primary colours and secondary colours.
5. Write what two primary colours make a secondary colour



Green pen!
Write a self evaluation

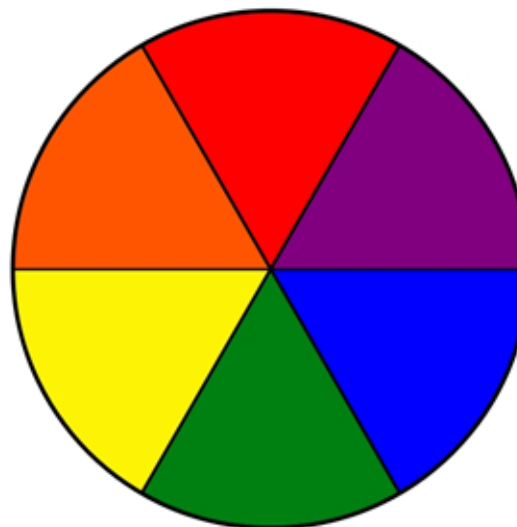
WWW: What went well?
EBI: Even better if?



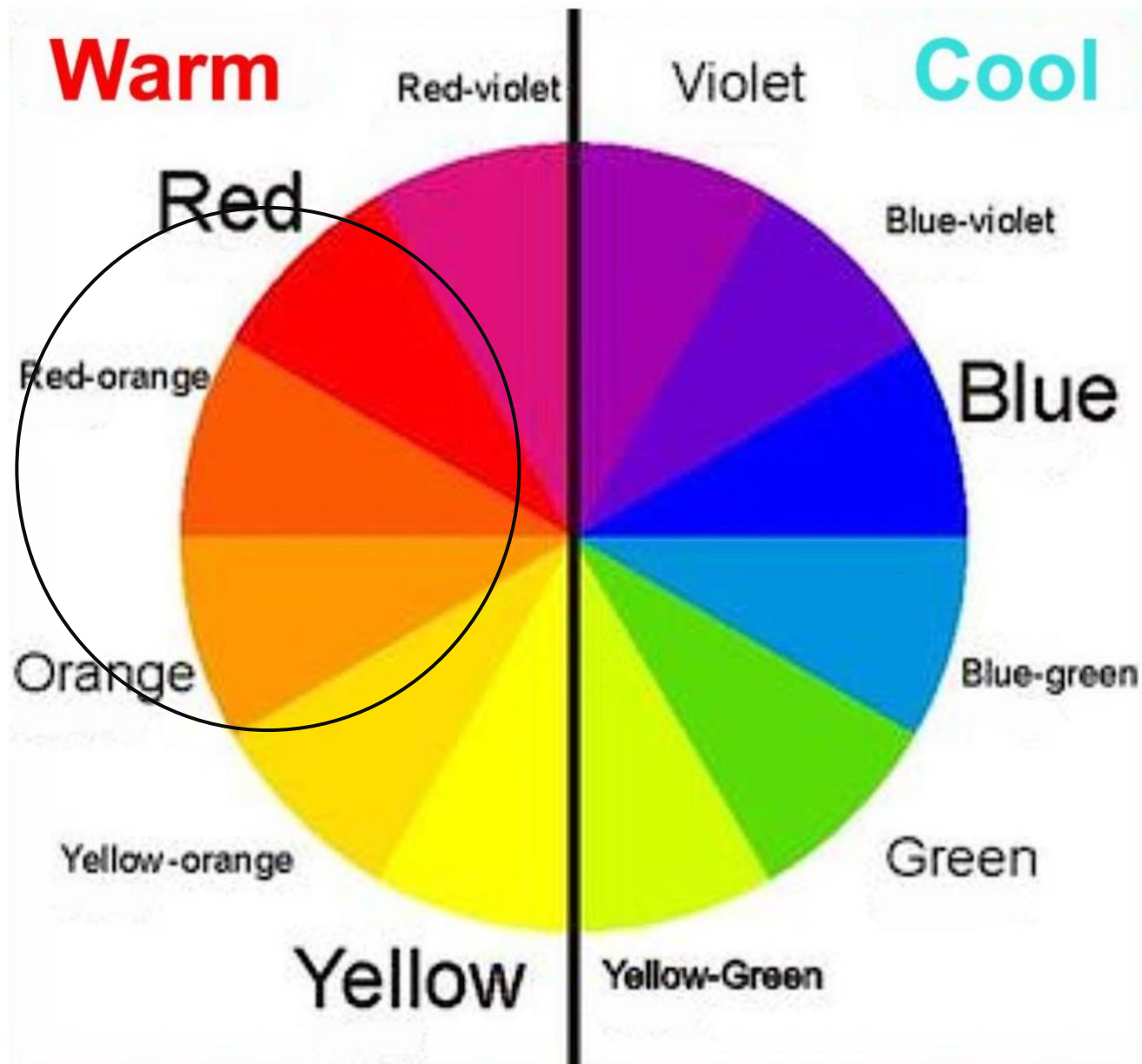


LESSON 2: DRAWING WITH COLOUR

Recap: Speak to the person next to you and discuss what you learnt about last week?

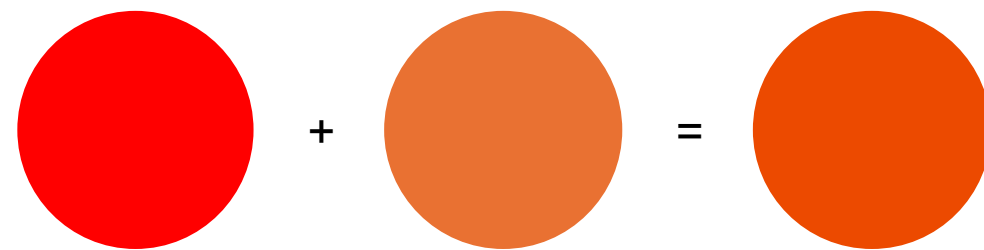


**Be prepared to share
your thoughts with
the class!**



Through colour mixing, the colour wheel can be expanded into **tertiary colours**. This is created by mixing the neighboring primary and secondary colour.

For example



Red (primary) + orange (secondary) = red/orange

How does Frank Bowling use shape in his work?



What is Shape?

Can you think about different examples of shape.
Think about your maths lessons.

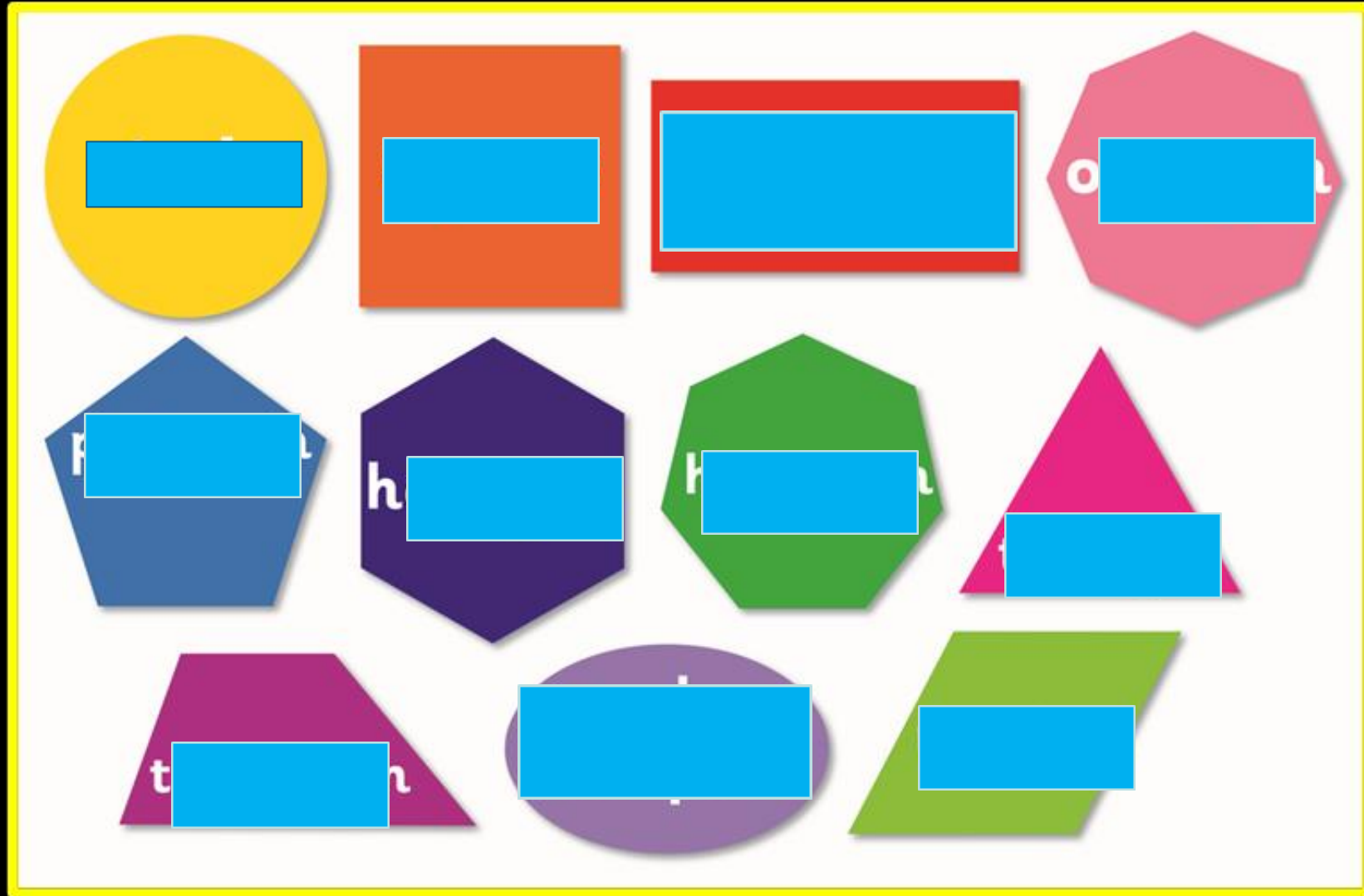


What is shape?

An area enclosed by a line. It could be just an outline or it could be shaded in.

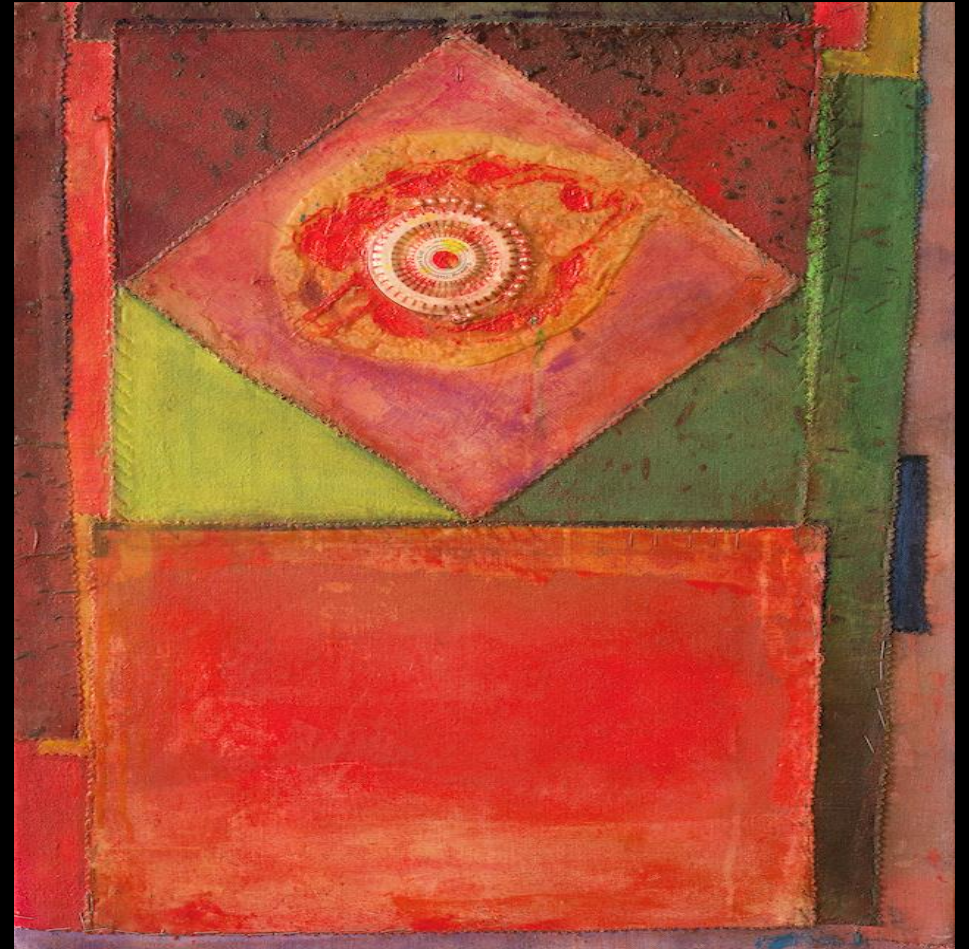
Shapes: how many shapes can you identify?

Now lets green pen and see how many you found!



Frank Bowling: Geometry and Shape

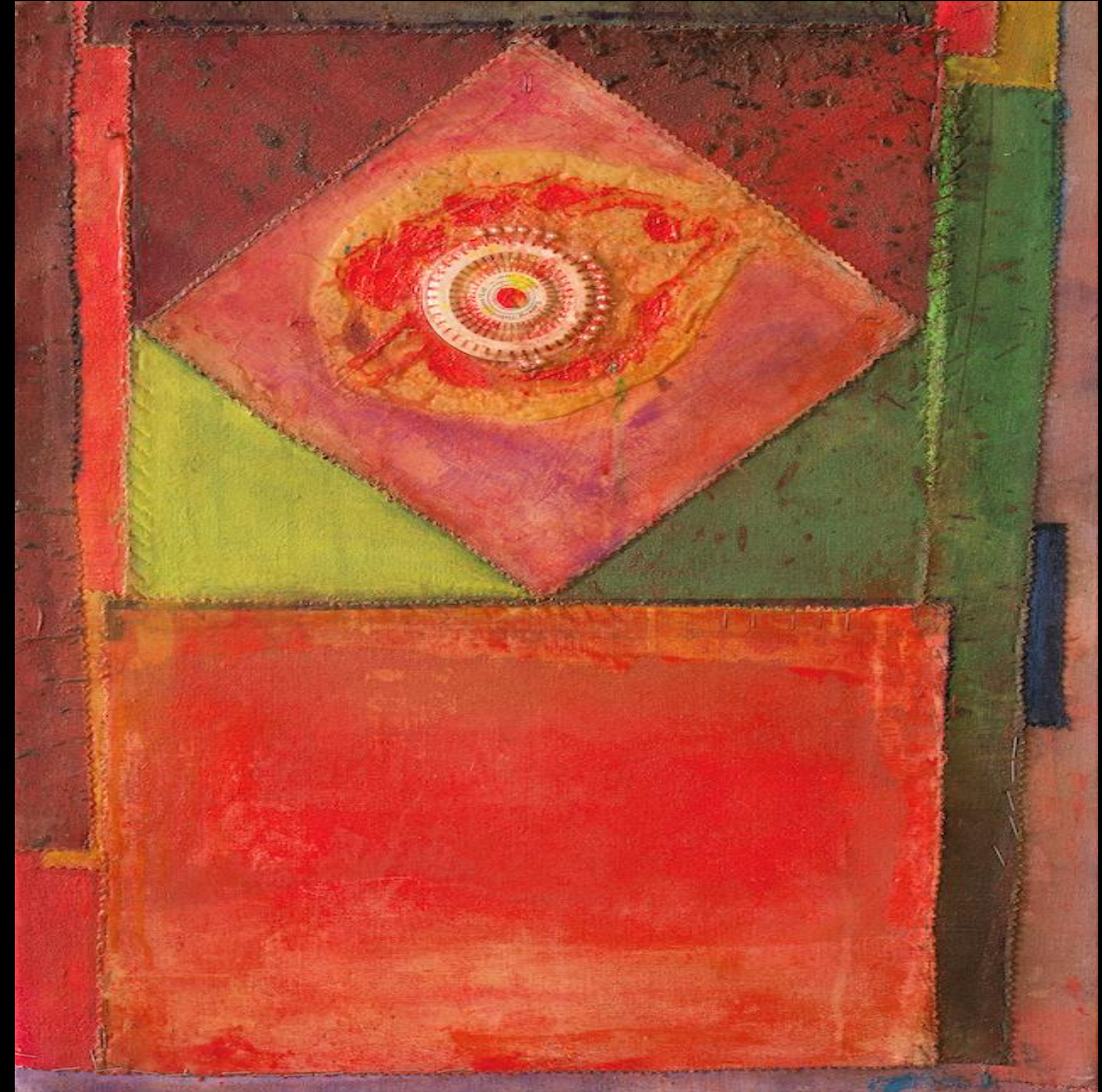
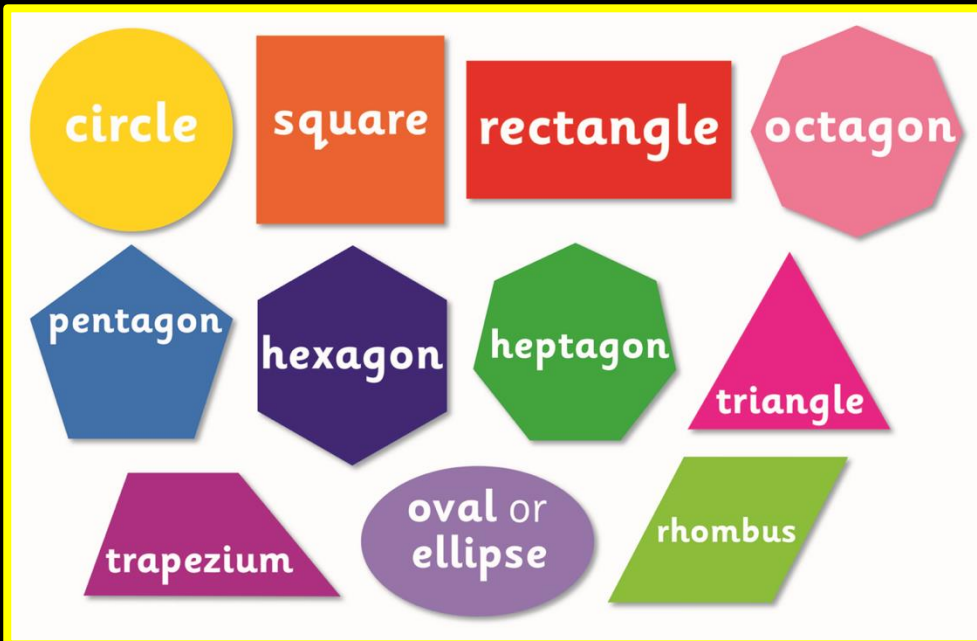
Frank Bowling's paintings have a geometrical structure that is easy to miss unless you look for it. As a teenager, he worked with his uncle, a cabinet maker, where he learned about how to use circles and triangles inside squares to create stability in a piece of furniture. He has sustained this interest in geometry throughout his career. The shape of the canvas – square or rectangular – helps to shape the geometry of the painting. If you look closely, you can see circles inside squares, diagonal lines, straight lines and curves.



'Lapwing Eye' 2000

Shapes in a painting

What shapes can you see in this painting? What colours can you see?



'Lapwing Eye' 2000

What **shapes** can you see in this painting and how would you describe the **colours** used?

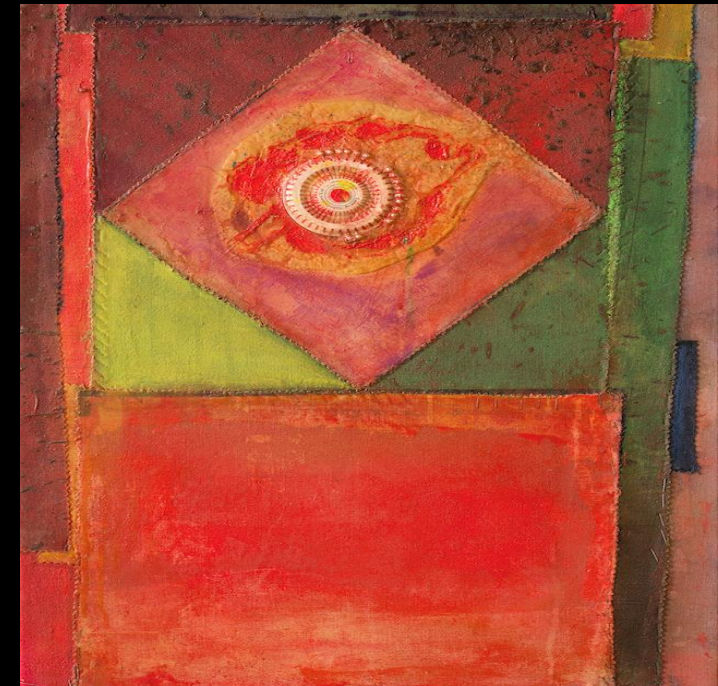


Using shapes in paintings

LO: to understand shapes and colour used in painting

1. Select 4 shapes to draw around, repeat some of these shapes on your page
2. Overlap some of your shapes
3. Using colouring pencil, add colour to your shapes

Hint: Will some shapes have warm colours, cool colours, complementary colours, tertiary colours?





Self reflection

Write a paragraph about how you found today's lesson.

What did you learn about Frank Bowling?

What shapes did you use?

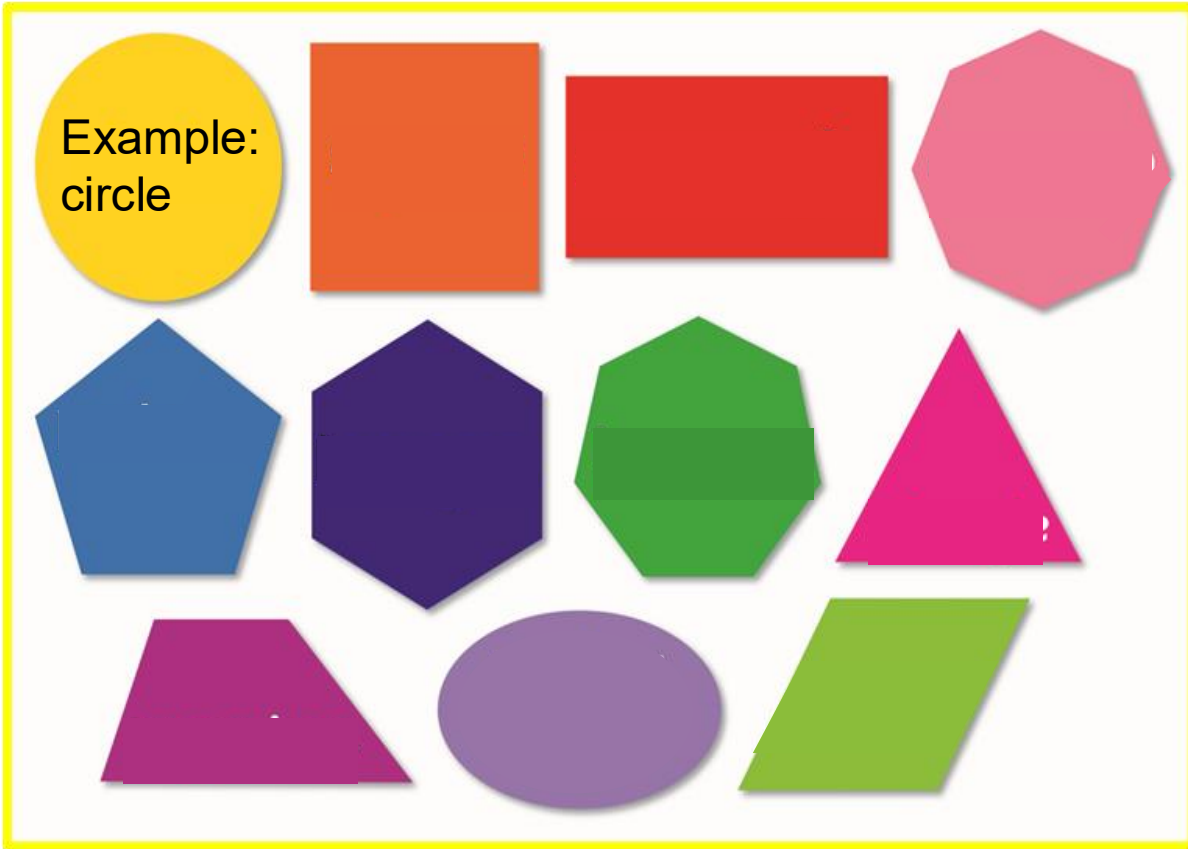
Where some shapes easier to draw than others?

What types of colours did you use?

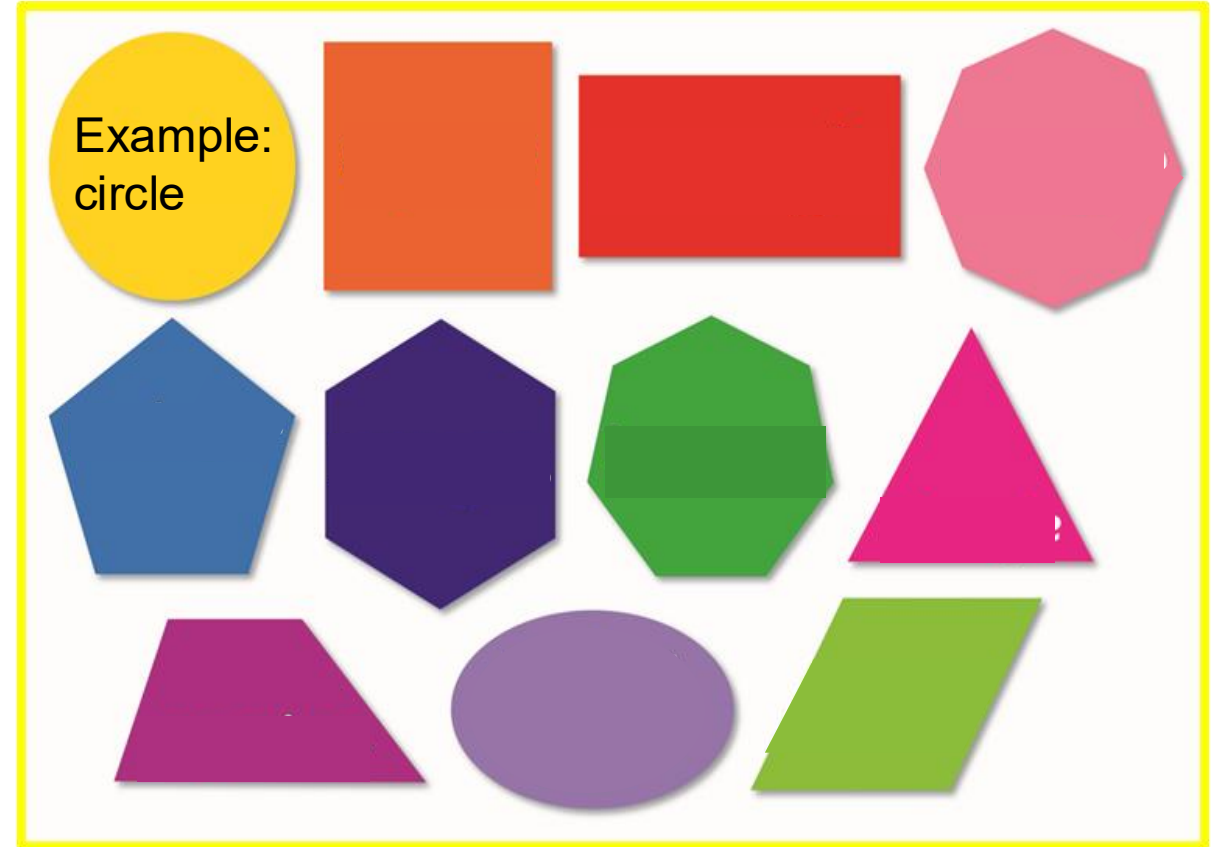
How did the colours make you feel?

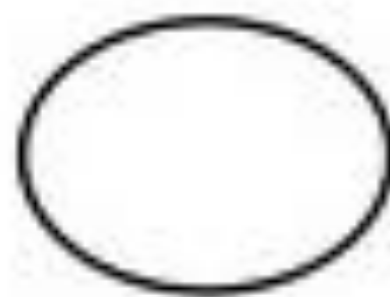
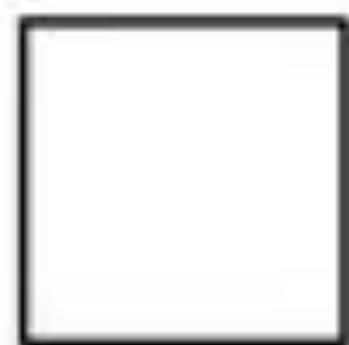
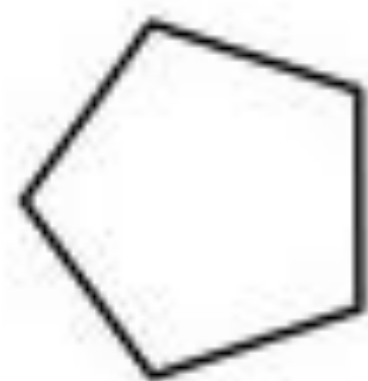
Worksheets

Write inside the names of the shapes



Write inside the names of the shapes

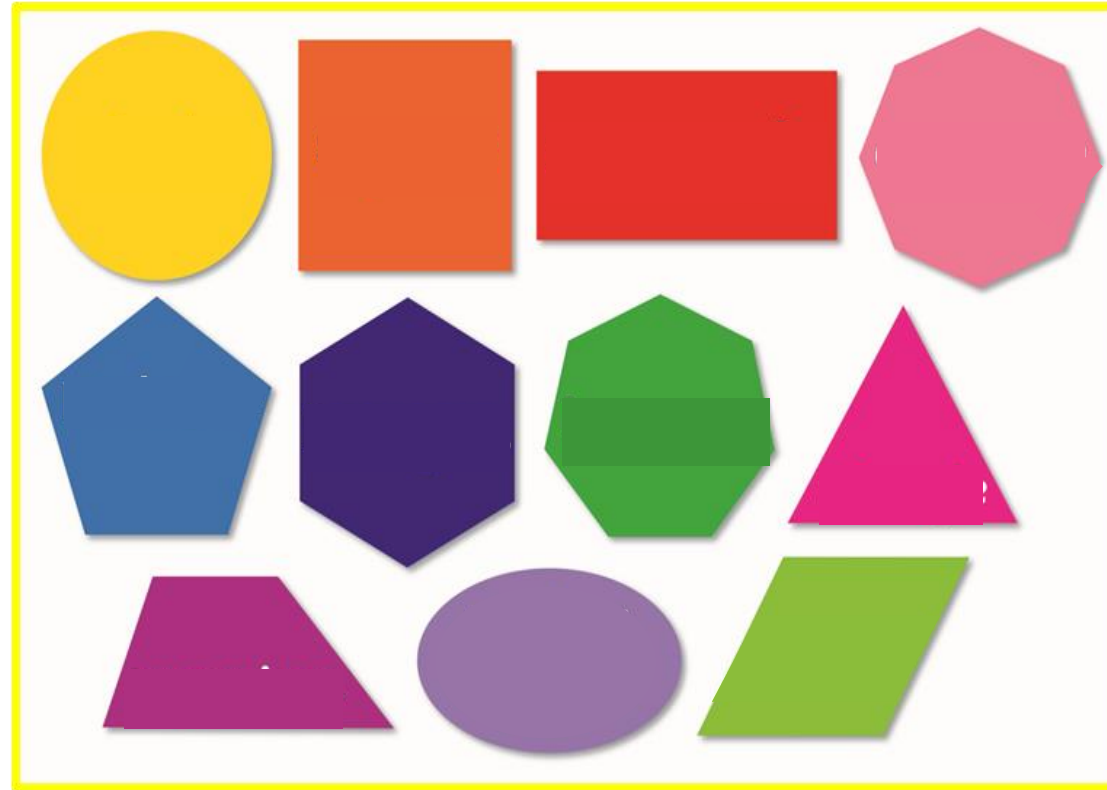






LESSON 3: WORKING IN MIXED MEDIA

Recap: Speak to the person next to you and discuss what you learnt about last week?



**Be prepared to share
your thoughts with
the class!**

LO: Taking a look at what is mixed media



Revisiting 'Night Journey', 2012

Mixed media is when a combination of materials or mediums is used for an artwork. This means using, paint, pencil, layers of colour paper, tissue paper, photos, glue, the list is endless.

Frank will often use found objects such as buttons, fabric, glitter, paint, glue in his work to create which helps create texture.

Today we will create an artwork in your sketchbook using mixed media

What materials can you see in this artwork?



In your sketchbook....



Red Australia, 2022
Acrylic and acrylic gel on paper
collaged to canvas



1. Stick the map worksheet in your sketchbook for the base layer
2. Using a mixture of paper and tissue paper, rip up some pieces and layer this over some areas of your page.
3. Using glue, stick string to your page. You might even want trace the outline of the map using the string



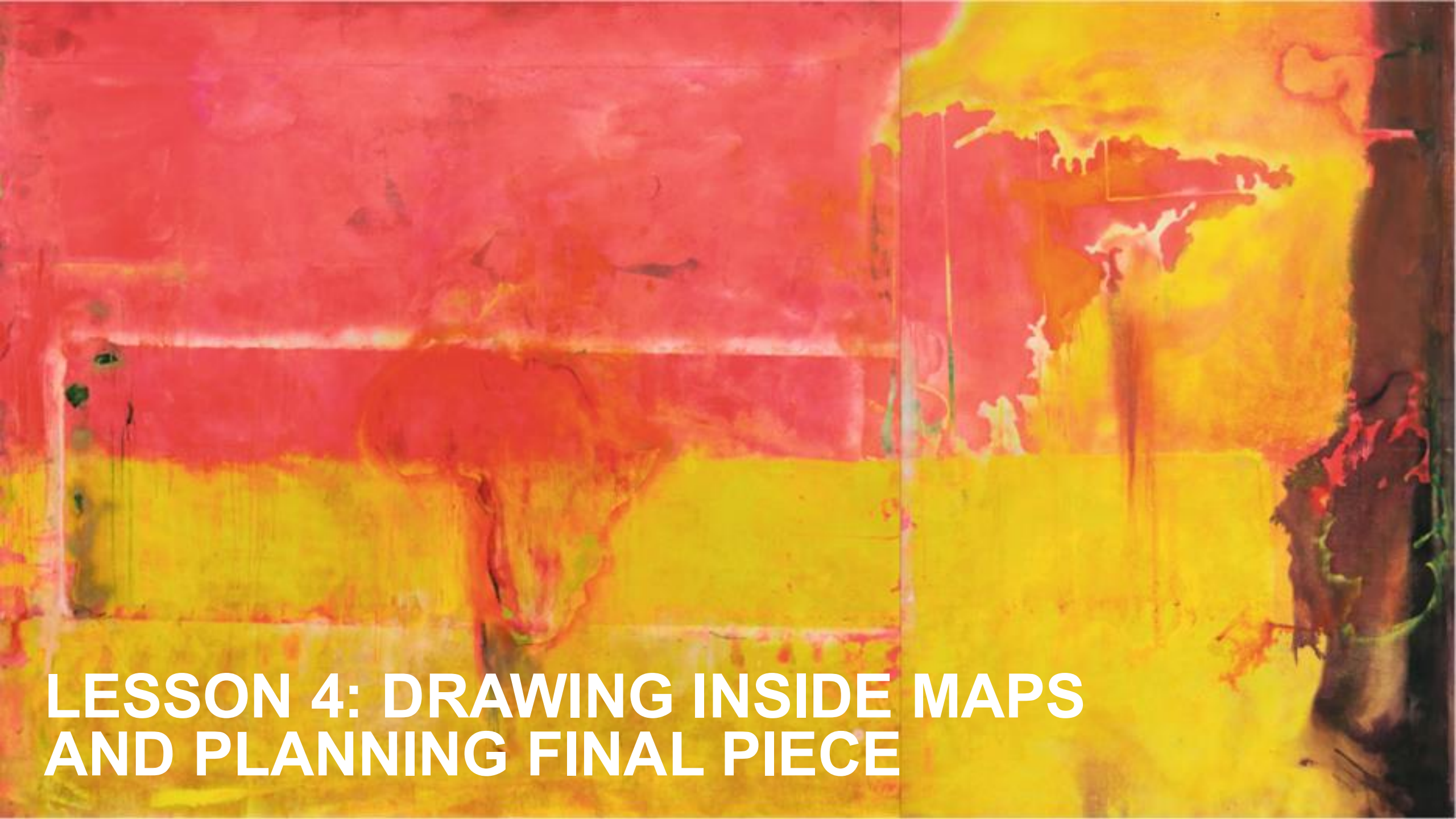
Red Australia, 2022
Acrylic and acrylic gel on paper collaged to canvas



Final step

Add a wash of watercolour to your page. Think about what colours you would you like to use. Go back over your sketchbook and look at the lessons on colour theory.

Add glue to areas on your page and add either more tissue paper or glitter.



**LESSON 4: DRAWING INSIDE MAPS
AND PLANNING FINAL PIECE**

Recap: Speak to the person next to you and discuss what you learnt about last week?



Be prepared to share your thoughts with the class!



What words can you use to describe this painting?

What colours have been used?

What has the work been painted on?

Has a stencil been used?

Trial Maps, 1985- Acrylic on paper

Can you name different types of maps or how you might use maps?

Map of where you live

Map out family tree

Map of your journey to school



Map of where you family are from

Map of your favourite places ie, park, library, friends house

You can use a map in a literal or a playful way. A map can be a way of talking about who you are.

Starter activity: Write and draw a map of places that are meaningful to you.

In your sketchbook, map out all the meaningful place for you.

Step one:

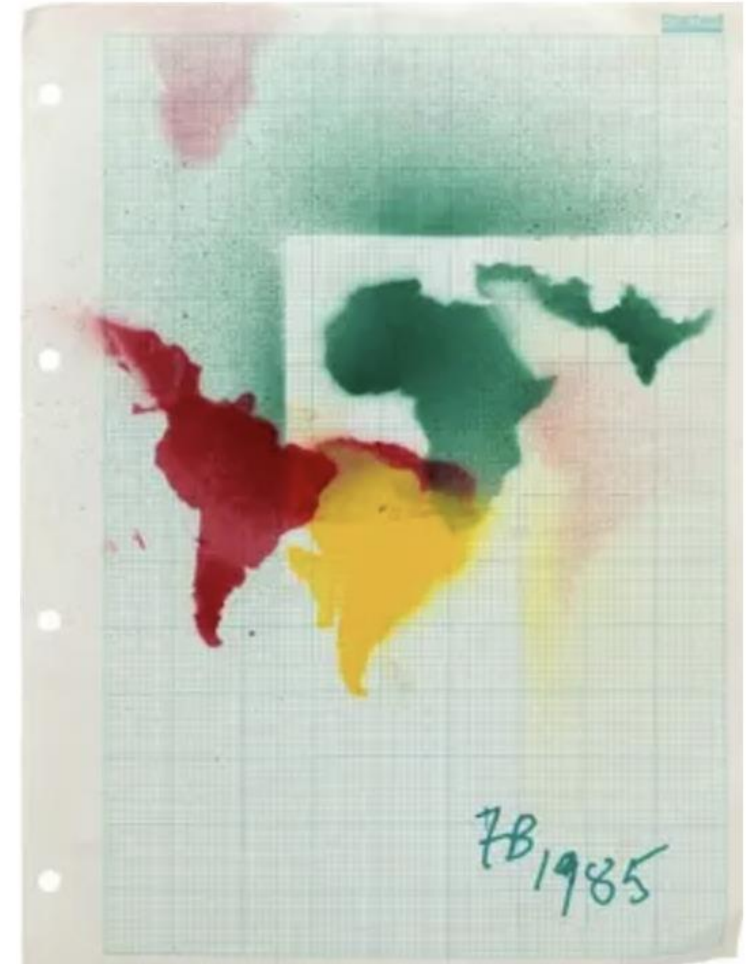
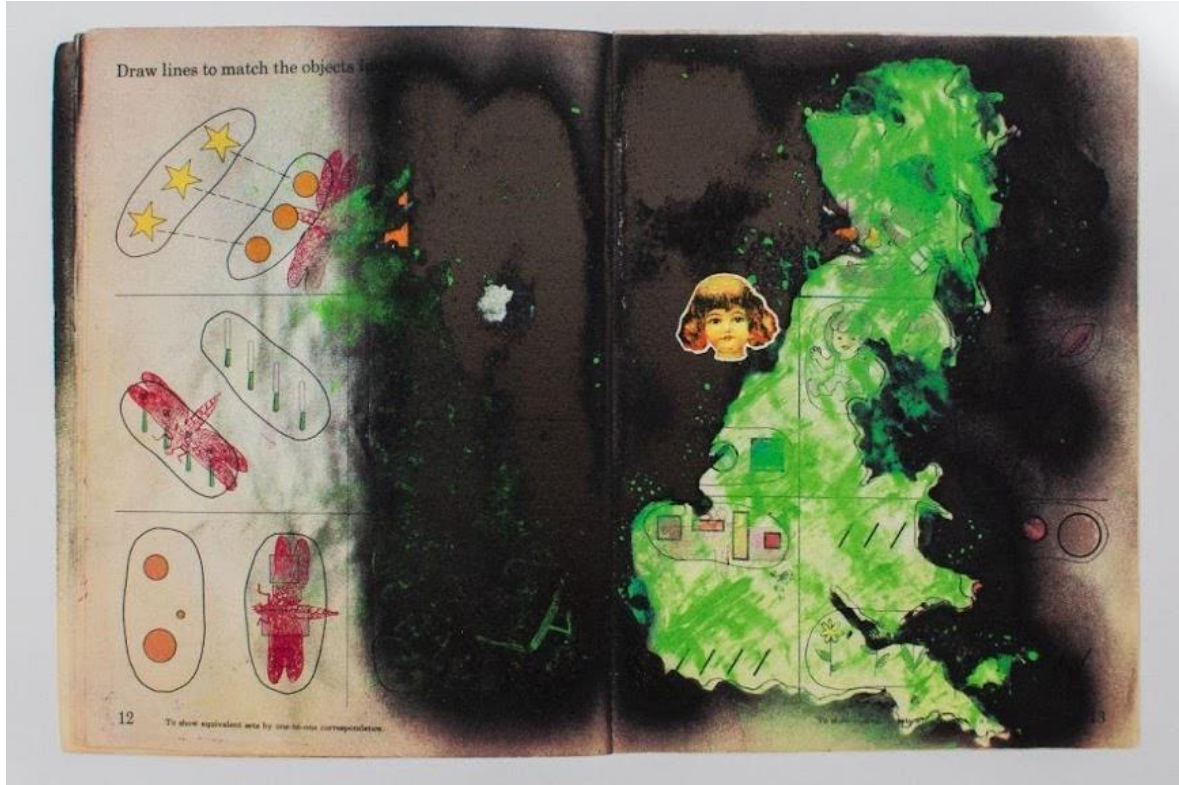
At the top of your page, start off with writing a list of these places. For example, your home, your postcode, school, a friends house, favourite park, favourite landmark.

Step two:

Under your list, start drawing imagery of your list. Your map doesn't have to be in a straight line, you can draw around your page, in a circle or across your page.



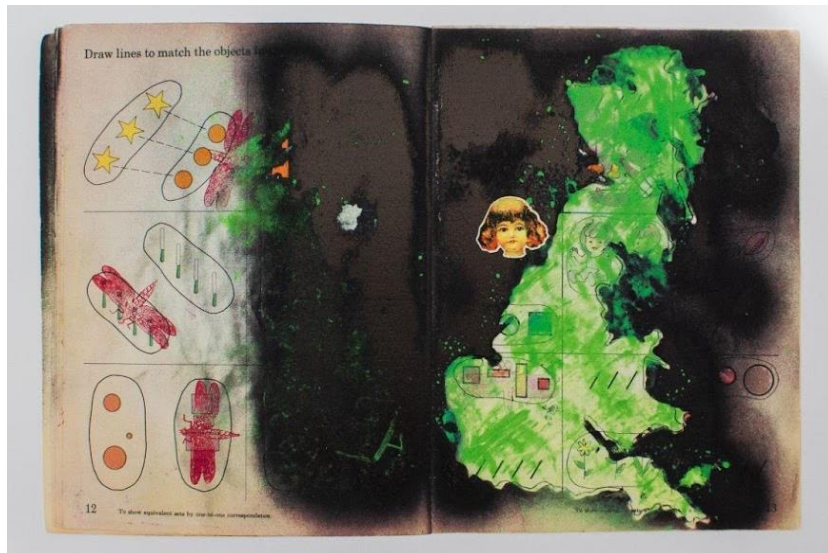
We will now move onto the practical side of your lesson, make sure to follow classroom rules when using scissors and paints



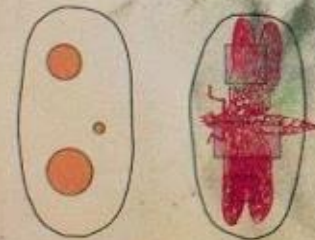
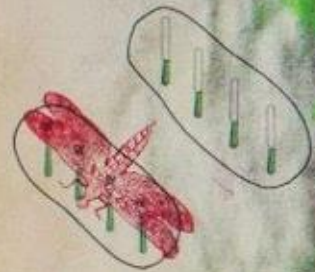
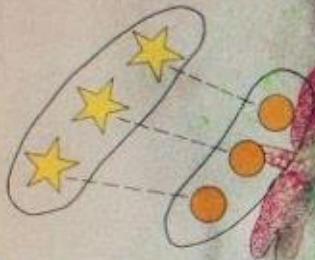
Map Stencils

Frank Bowling uses a range of methods to make his artwork, in his earlier works he often used stencilling or screen-printing to add maps or imagery from his family history.

After moving to New York in 1966, Frank Bowling began to create his *Map Paintings* (1967—71). Featuring continental landmasses spray-painted with stencils.



Draw lines to match the objects in



12

To show equivalent sets by one-to-one correspondence.



13

Look at this painting.

What do you see?

What do you think?

Lesson objective: Creating a stencil in the style of Frank

1. Take your printed map and place it in the center of your page.
2. Using a sharp pencil carefully draw around your map on any choice of background paper.
3. Carefully cut around the map, look at the shape of the line carefully and try to include any bumps.



4. Experiment with drawing around your stencil using different materials e.g., an oil pastel, a chalk pastel, brush and paint.

5. What sort of line does each material create?

6. Can you try overlapping your maps, sometimes Frank Bowling repeats his maps 2 or 3 times in a painting.

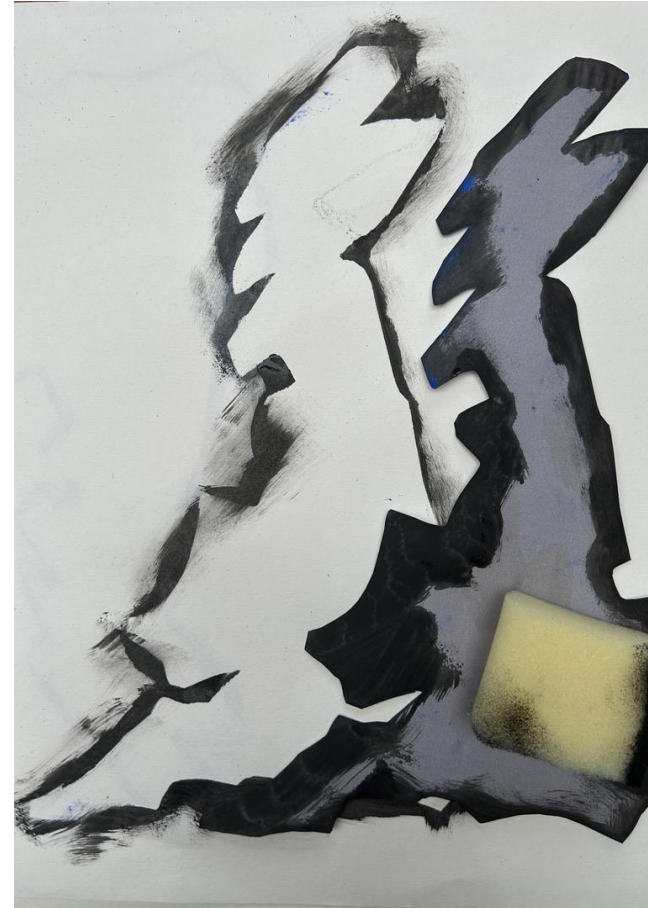


Peer assess:

Using a green pen, assess your neighbours artwork.

Which was the most successful piece? Why?

Which didn't work out so well? Why?





LESSON 5&6: CREATING YOUR FINAL PIECE

Creating your Final Map Painting

Think about all you have learnt about Frank Bowling and the stories he tells with his map paintings.

- Which new vocabulary have you learnt?
- What new techniques have you learnt?
- What is your story?

Try to remember these as you complete your final map painting.



Creating your Final Map Painting

1. Creating the base of your artwork

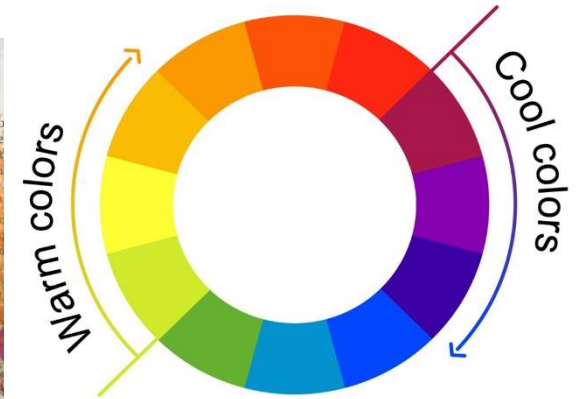
To start off with, using ripped paper, create a collaged background. This is to create texture in your work. Think back to your collage lesson, what worked, what didn't work?

2. Paint over your collage

Now using watercolours, choose what colours you will use to create a light wash of paint over your collage base. Will these be warm colours or cool colours? Will you use complementary colours? Look back over your lesson on colour

3. Choose your map

Using your map of choice, this could be of London, UK, where your parents are from or where you were born. Use this map as a stencil to place over your artwork



Developing your Final Map Painting

4. Inside your map, draw out the imagery you have planned in your sketchbook of places which are meaningful to you. You can draw your imagery using pencil, pen, colouring pencil or felt tip.



5. Now add the final changes. Remember you are creating a mixed media piece of work. Can you add glitter or some objects such as feathers, lost objects? What can you find in the selection box of materials.



Self Assessment: Evaluate your final piece

What did you learn about Frank Bowling?

How did you work in his style?

How successful was your final piece?

Describe why you used the colours and imagery in your final piece.

How could you improve?

Did anything surprise you with this work?

