



## TRYING OUT ART

### FOCUS

**Art:** art styles, color, line, creativity  
**Language Arts:** reading comprehension

### SOFTWARE CONNECTION

Louvre Expedition,  
Serengeti Cave Code

### GROUPING

whole class, individuals

### SUPPLIES

copies of the Trying Out Art Activity Sheet on heavy paper (1 per student)  
children's book (see Step 1)  
encyclopedias or books showing famous artworks  
pencils  
watercolors, markers, and/or crayons

### ACTIVITY

1. Introduce the lesson by reading an art-related children's book:

#### Book

*Olivia* by Ian Falconer

*Art Dog* by Thacher Hurd

*The First Starry Night*

by Joan Shaddox Isom

*When Pigasso Met Mootisse*

by Nina Laden

#### Main Characters

Little pig who loves Degas and imitates Pollock

Dog who guards the Dogopolis Museum of Art

Van Gogh and an orphaned boy

Animal artists modeled after Picasso and Matisse

2. Discuss the artists and artworks in the book that you read. You can find additional information about the artists and their work in encyclopedias and art books.
  - Talk about the artists and their character traits.
  - What colors did the artist use? Are the colors bright or dull?
  - Are the lines smooth or angular?
  - Is the subject matter realistic or abstract?
  - If you wanted to try out this type of art, what kind of colors, lines, and subject matter would you choose?
3. Explain that students will try out different types or styles of art as they create original drawings or paintings. Have each student select one of the artists from the book you read. Or let students imitate the style of the book's illustrator. For example, a student could imitate the illustrations in *Olivia*, which are black and white with splashes of red.
4. Distribute the activity sheets. Have each student fill in the blanks at the top of the page and then do an original drawing or painting. Give students an opportunity to show and talk about their work before displaying it in the classroom.