



eva

ELEMENTARY VISUAL ARTS

Park City Education Foundation • Kimball Art Center

LESSON

7

Eric Carle

Illustration

Verbal Directions

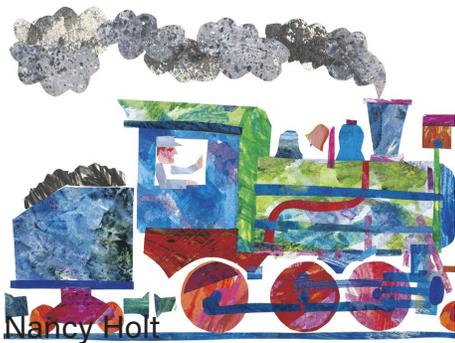
LESSON OVERVIEW

Eric Carle (born 1929) is an American writer and illustrator of children's literature who published numerous best-selling books. Students will learn about the art techniques behind his illustrations. They will then use texture, collage and shapes to create their own character, an illustration of an animal or a bug.

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Learn about the life and work of Eric Carle.
- Learn about the process of creating illustrations.
- Create a character.
- Work with collage.
- Add a background to tell a story.

ILLUSTRATION AND ANIMATION



SUPPLIES

- Images of Eric Carle's artwork and books
- Tissue paper or colorful construction paper
- Pencils
- Scissors
- Sharpies
- Scrap paper
- Scrap Book Paper
- Glue Sticks

Eric Carle (born 1929) is an American writer and illustrator of children's literature who published numerous best-selling books, among them *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. He was born to German immigrant parents and lived in Syracuse, New York, until 1935, when he moved to his father's home in Stuttgart, Germany. Carle studied graphic art at Akademie der bildenden Künste in Stuttgart. In 1952, Carle moved to New York City to make a living as an artist. He worked as a graphic designer at *The New York Times* until he was drafted into the army during the Korean War. In 1963, Carle decided to focus on art and he met the children's author Bill Martin, Jr. who encouraged Carle to create illustrations. In 1967 they published their first collaboration, *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*, a colorful book. Carle continued to write and illustrate more than 70 books, using a tissue-paper collage technique to create brightly colored pictures, of children, animals, and nature. [Learn More.](#)



LESSON PLAN

1. Introduce students to the life and work of Eric Carle. Read one of his books or look at a variety of his illustrations.

- What does an illustrator do?
- What kind of stories does Eric Carle like to tell? Do you know any of his books?
- What kind of main characters do you see in his illustrations? (mostly animals or insects)
- How would you describe his style?
- If you could make your own illustration, what kind of characters would you create? What stories would you tell?

2. Take a closer look at the texture of Eric Carle's illustration. Ask students:

- How do you think these illustrations are made?
- Who is your favorite Eric Carle character?

3. Demonstrate to students some simple drawing techniques to illustrate any animal. Talk about how to use basic shapes to draw animals (or bugs), starting with the body, then adding a head, legs, etc. Look at images of Eric Carle's critters and point out how he uses simple shapes to create the characters in his books.

4. Ask students to think about their favorite bug or animal. Have students start to brainstorm a story or adventure for the animal. This will give them the personality of the character. Have students practice drawing their animal using simple shapes.

5. Student will now create their own animal or critter or bug using tissue paper or scraps of colored texture paper. They can also add detail with pencil and sharpies.

6. Have students imagine that their collage is the book cover for their story. Ask students to brainstorm and add a title.

EVA +: Student take their animal or critter character and illustrate a story in four frames. Divide a piece of paper into four frames. Students can use scratch paper to develop their story and practice sketching each scene. Students can use color pencil or marker to add color.





KEY IDEAS THAT CONNECT TO NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS:
Based on National Core Arts Standards visual Arts Requirements
(1st Grade).

VA:Cr2.1.1a :

Explore uses of materials and tools to create works of art or design.

VA:Cr1.2.1a :

Use observation and investigation in preparation for making a work of art.

STUDIO HABITS OF THE MIND:

Envision: Learning to picture mentally what cannot be directly observed, and imagine possible next steps in making a piece.



ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Click on links to learn more.

- <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Eric-Carle>
- <https://www.nccil.org/artists/eric-carle>

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