

# Artful Activities for Early Learners



**MoMA**

These activities for children ages four and up can be done with teachers, parents, and caregivers at home or in a classroom.

## Look closely

- What colors do you see?
- Can you find different shades of one color (e.g. light blue, dark blue, etc.)?
- Use your arm as an imaginary paintbrush to show how you think the artist painted the different colors.
- What do the colors and marks remind you of?
- How did she arrange and group the colors together?

## Learn

Alma Thomas made this painting after watching leaves out her window. Thomas painted bright colors on strips of paper, then taped and stapled the pieces together so she could move and change which colors went next to each other. She thought carefully about where she placed colors and how they looked next to one another.

## Create a color composition

*This can be done by yourself or with a group.*

*Suggested materials:* white paper; markers, crayons or colored pencils; scissors; tape or staples

1. Cut or tear paper into different-sized strips.
2. Fill each strip with color.
3. Try placing different strips next to each other to see how the colors look together.
4. When you find an arrangement you like, tape or staple the strips together, or continue exploring different compositions.

## Explore more

See more images of the artist and her work: [s.si.edu/3eMWYxi](https://s.si.edu/3eMWYxi)



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Image: Alma Woodsey Thomas. *Untitled*. c. 1968. Acrylic and pressure-sensitive tape on cut-and-stapled paper. Gift of Donald B. Marron