



SPECIALTY CROP SELF PORTRAIT

Grade Level

1-5

Length of Lesson

45 minutes

Objective

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to recognize various fruits and vegetables while identifying shapes and patterns.

Materials Needed

- Colored pencils, markers, and/or crayons
- Glue or tape
- Scissors
- Copies of head templates (color and black & white versions)
- Copies of specialty crop templates (color and black & white versions)

Standards

Illinois Visual Arts

VA:Re7.2.1-5; Cr1.1.1-5;
Cr2.3.1-2; Cn11.1.1-5

Lesson Summary

This lesson is designed to challenge students to analyze shapes and organize a visual space by creating a self portrait using a variety of specialty crops!

*Activity adapted from Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom

Suggested Sequence of Events:

1. Read *We Are Growing* by Laurie Keller to snag student interest.
2. Read through the IAITC Specialty Crop Ag Mag to learn about pigs and pork. Interactive online versions can be found on our website.
3. Complete the activity following the procedures:
 - Talk to students about what a self portrait is.
 - Share the background information about Giuseppe Arcimboldo from the Teacher Resources page and show them pictures of his art. Then explain that they will be creating their own crop self portraits.
 - Pass out one of the head templates and a copy of the specialty crop template to each student.
 - Then, have them color their fruits and veggies from both templates and cut them out.
 - Pre-colored versions are available. Just cut out and start creating!
 - Students can play around with their shapes and choose which fruits and vegetables they want to use for different facial features.
 - Once they've decided what specialty crops they want to use, have them use glue or tape to secure the shapes in place.
 - Have fun and be creative!
4. Whole class discussion and reflection of activity. Display student artwork around the room or in the hallway!

TEACHER RESOURCES

Background Information:

Giuseppe Arcimboldo was an Italian painter who painted many portraits, among other things. These were no ordinary portraits though! Arcimboldo painted collections of objects that when arranged in the right way, formed the likeness of a portrait! Here are some of his paintings:



Learn more about Giuseppe Arcimboldo and view more of his imaginative portraits here: <https://www.giuseppe-arcimboldo.org/>

Extension Ideas:

- Pre-cut and laminate the colored version of the fruits and veggies. Then use magnets and a cookie sheet for easy creating!
- Talk about why students chose the fruits and vegetables they did. What is their favorite fruit and vegetable?
- Compare the artwork of various artist's self portraits. Observe the shapes used for various facial features.
- Learn more about the crops your students used for their self portraits. Where are those crops grown? Are any of them grown in Illinois? Which state produces the most of those various crops?
- Learn about locally grown foods and farmers markets. Challenge students to complete the AITC Farmers Market Scavenger Hunt worksheet.
- Learn more about gardening and grow vegetables or flowers in your classroom.
- Have students design their own garden. What would the dimensions be? What would they plant in their gardens?
- Learn more about pollinators and their role in agriculture.
- Go to agintheclassroom.org to contact your County Ag Literacy Coordinator for free classroom sets of our Ag Mags!













