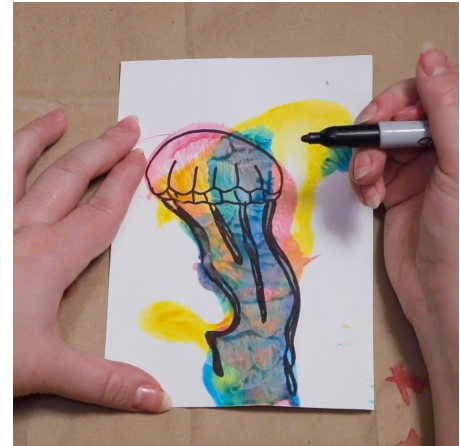


Pull-String Art

Let's create! Pull string art is an abstract technique where you saturate a length of string in paint, press it between two sheets of paper, and pull the string out. The resulting art is a wave of colorful shapes. In the video, Kelsey takes pull string art one step further by using her imagination to transform her kaleidoscopic work of art into colorful creatures. Kelsey chose to transform her string art into underwater creatures, but you can transform your art into creatures of any kind. What will you see in your abstract piece?



How-to video

<https://youtu.be/36lod9HnAMM>

Materials:

- String
- Paint
- Water
- Some little containers or bowls
- Popsicle sticks (or chopsticks, old pencils, etc) to help saturate strings in paint
- Sturdy paper
- A book
- A pen
- And some newspaper or cardboard boxes or paper bags or something to lay over your workspace to contain The Mess.

Steps:

1. **Prep your space.** This is a bit of a messy project, so prepping your space will help you focus on making art. Cut up an old cardboard box or paper bag, lay out some newspaper, or repurpose an old sheet.
2. **Separate and mix paint.** Give each paint color its own bowl. You want enough paint in each bowl to be able to saturate your string. Once you have all your colors separated,



add a little water to each bowl and mix to thin out your colors. This will help to thin the paint so it glides over the paper better and creates shapes.

3. **Cut string.** You want each length to be long enough so you can experiment and loop and create different shapes on your paper when you pull your string. In the video, Kelsey cut about a foot of string for each shape.
4. **Saturate string.** Put a length of the string in each paint bowl. It helps to swirl each string around in the paint using a fork or a chopstick to fully saturate. Be sure to rinse your stirring device before saturating the next length of string so the colors don't mix.
5. **Fold the paper in half.** You'll sandwich your string in between the two halves, using the centerfold as an axis to create a symmetrical piece of art when you pull the string through.
6. **Lay the string on your paper.** Carefully grab one of your paint-soaked strings and lay it on one half of your paper. In the video, Kelsey made a loop-de-loop with her string but you can experiment with all different kinds of shapes. Be sure to leave a little bit of string hanging down past the bottom of the paper.
7. **Fold the paper in half over the string.**
8. **Cover paper with a book and press.** You want to press down firmly enough so it causes friction between the string and the paper, but not so much that it makes it difficult to pull the string out fully.
9. **Pull string.** Grab the tail and pull the string out fully from between the paper. Place string back in it's paint bowl.
10. **Open up and let dry.** What fun shapes did your string create? You can leave just one color, or you can repeat the process adding different colors until your piece is just right.
11. **Once dry, cut paper in half (or don't).** You'll be using the colorful shapes made by the string to inspire a creature illustration. You can cut your paper in half along the centerfold-axis to create two different works of art, or leave whole and use both sides to create one piece of art.
12. **Transform!** Use a pen or any art supplies to transform your abstract shape into a creature. In the video, Kelsey transformed her shapes into a jellyfish and a kelp forest, but what do you see in your shapes?

Caregiver tip: There is no right or wrong way for your learner to interpret their shapes, so if you find them getting frustrated, encourage them to find one or two shapes that stand out to them to start with and think of creatures with those same shapes. Looking up illustrations of the creatures they want to draw can be helpful for plotting out the larger shapes. Once your learner has decided how they want to transform their shape into a creature, try using the time they're drawing to look up your own creature's fun facts!