

Cupcake Canvas: Exploring Color and Design

Materials Needed:

- Plain cupcakes (1-2 per student, baked beforehand)
- White vanilla frosting
- Food coloring (liquid or gel: Red, Yellow, Blue)
- 3-4 Small bowls
- Spoons or small spatulas/plastic knives
- Paper plate
- Optional: Sprinkles, small candies
- Optional: Pictures of decorated cupcakes or colorful art
- Wipes or paper towels for cleanup

Lesson Steps:

1. Introduction (Engage - 5 mins):

Start by talking about yummy cupcakes! Ask: "Have you ever seen cupcakes that look like art? What makes them look special or pretty?" Show pictures if you have them. Explain that today, we're going to be artists, and our canvas will be a cupcake!

2. Color Magic (Explore - 10-15 mins):

Introduce the "magic" colors: Red, Yellow, and Blue. These are called primary colors because they can't be made by mixing other colors. Put a scoop of white frosting into 3 separate bowls. Add a different primary color to each bowl and mix well. Look at the bright colors! Now, let's see what happens when we mix them. In new small bowls (or on the paper plate), mix a little red and yellow frosting. What color do you get? (Orange!) Try yellow and blue (Green!). Try red and blue (Purple!). These new colors are called secondary colors.

3. Design Studio (Create - 15 mins):

Place a plain cupcake on a paper plate for the student. Provide access to the different colored frostings (primary and secondary) and a spatula or knife. Encourage the student to decorate their cupcake canvas. Talk about ideas: "Will you cover the whole top? Make polka dots? Stripes? Swirls? Use warm colors like red/orange/yellow or cool colors like blue/green/purple?" Offer sprinkles or candies as final touches.

4. Cupcake Gallery Walk (Explain/Evaluate - 5 mins):

Admire the finished cupcake masterpiece! Ask the student to be the artist and tell you about their work: "Tell me about your cupcake design. What colors did you use? Why did you choose them? Did you make any patterns? What's your favorite part of your cupcake art?"

5. Clean Up & Taste Test (Extend - 5 mins):

Clean up the bowls and tools. Discuss how artists always clean their supplies. Then, enjoy the delicious artwork!