

THE COMMUNITY CIRCLE PROJECT

BY SANDY COLEMAN

Attleboro, MA
Grades 4+

OBJECTIVES

Students will...

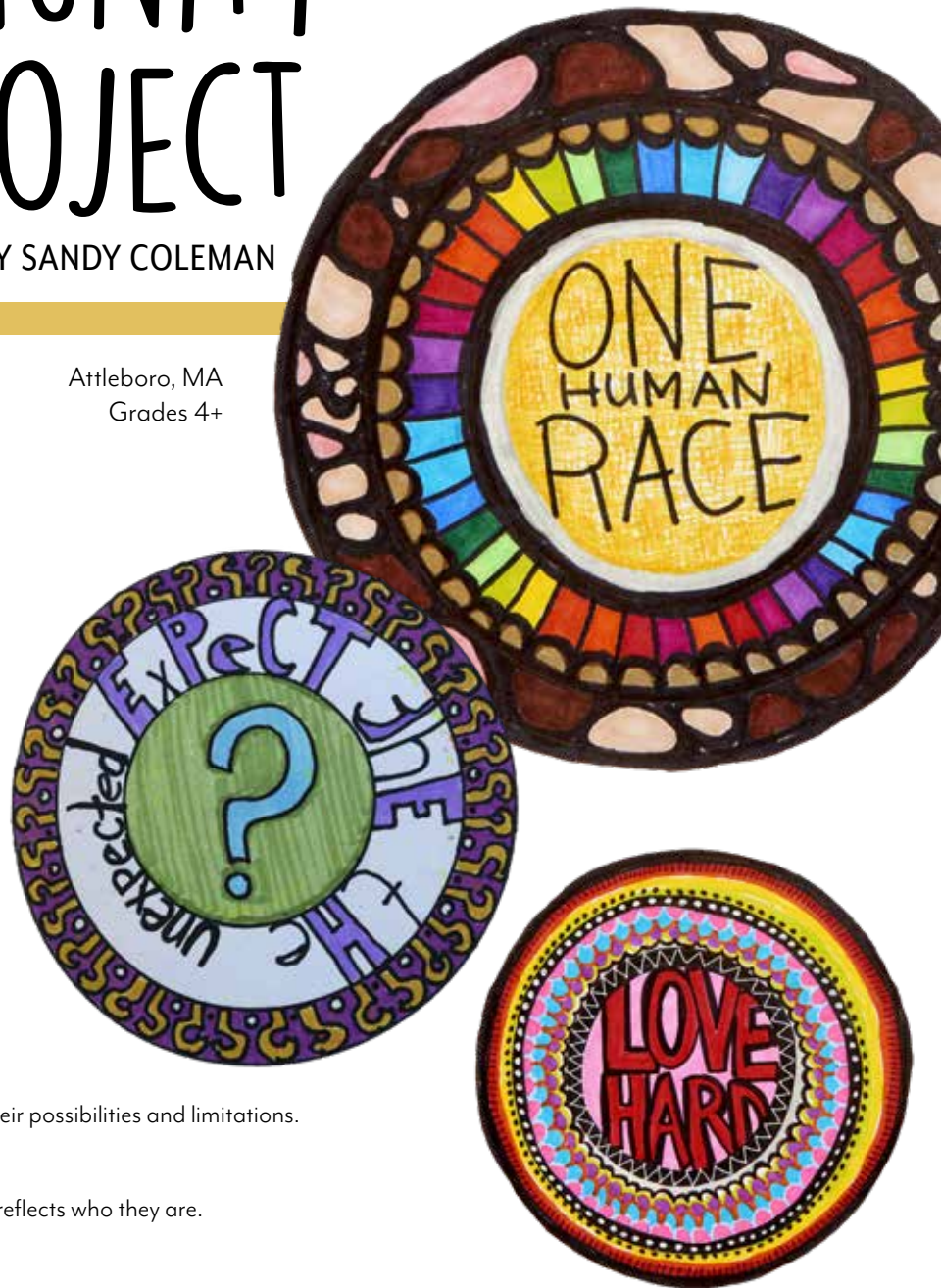
- Practice relaxation through art
- Reflect on commonalities, connection, inclusion
- Self-reflect
- Create art using simple supplies and expand upon the project, if additional supplies are available
- Develop personal style for designing with shape and colour
- Express feelings in a concise manner
- Develop verbal communication skills, comfort in sharing inspiration

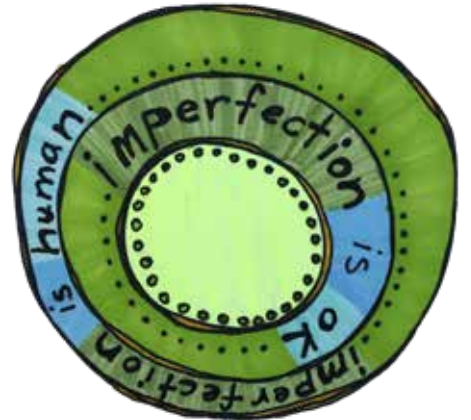
STANDARDS

- Explore elements and principles of design.
- Use sketching to develop ideas for artwork.
- Explore the natural characteristics of materials and their possibilities and limitations.
- Learn basic language used in art.
- Explore the purposes and functions of art.
- Understand that artists develop a personal style that reflects who they are.

INTRODUCTION

In every culture, the circle is a symbol of unity, connection, inclusiveness and continuity. The Community Circle Project is an ongoing art collaboration created and facilitated by artist and art educator Sandy Coleman. She invites participants to use the circle in artmaking to remind us of our connection to each other, our communities and the world. As we continually raise our awareness of that connection, we keep our focus on our commonalities, our common humanity, and hopefully, our common desire for good for all. In this particular lesson, the circle is the focus of approachable artmaking designed for relaxation and reflection on connection as participants respond to a prompt or question in words and design, and then share the thoughts behind their inspiration.





[SANDY'S ARTWORK]

AFTER YOUR CREATIONS:

Discuss the creative process, the inspiration, how the individual response might connect to others who may feel or respond the same. Notice the response of others who share, consider how this highlights our commonality and why that might be important to reflect upon. Is it surprising that more than one person felt the same way in responding to the prompt or question? Is it OK that all the responses are not the same? Is one response more valuable than the other?

INSTRUCTIONS:

Instructor prep work: Before the class begins, decide on the prompt or question participants will reflect upon. Also, determine when to share the prompt/question (could be shared the day before so there is time to think about it or it could be shared right before the start of the design phase after instructions to ensure everyone is paying attention). For example: “What are you learning about yourself, your family, your community or the world right now?”

- Explain **The Community Circle Project** lesson:
 - Circle as symbol
 - Intent—connection to commonality
 - Goals—relaxation, reflection, no judgment about artwork.
 - Response to prompt or question in art and concise use of words incorporated within circles of three varied sizes that will be traced.

Present the prompt/question (could be shared the day before so there is time to think about it or could be shared right before the start of the design phase after instructions to ensure everyone is paying attention).

- Let participants know that designs can be simple geometric shapes, swirls/scribbles or any form of doodling.
 - Show examples of doodles or patterns that could be used.
 - Review lettering styles—handwritten in cursive, print, letters within circles or squares.

LET'S START THE ART!

1. Beginning with the largest circle template, use a black Sharpie®, to trace it. Next, trace second largest template within the larger one. Third, trace next circle template within that one. You will have three circles.

NOTE: Using the Sharpie® to trace allows for a smooth drawing of the circle; if lines are slightly off, retrace without lifting the template to neat up lines. But, do not focus on perfection; allow for imperfection and use the opportunity to discuss that aspect of artmaking.

2. Using a pencil, pick one of the circle bands to lightly write a response to the prompt/question, depending on how long your sentence is. Participants can write in more than one circle, if desired, but leave room for some design and the ability to add colour, if desired. Once the words are written in pencil, use a black marker or ballpoint pen to trace over words, let that dry to avoid smudging, and then erase pencil lines.
3. Using the black Sharpie®, doodle, design around words, add colour, if desired and materials are available.
4. Take a photo of each circle to create a virtual gallery that showcases the individual creations as well as how they relate to the collection of circles. Also, post the individual circles on a wall together in a prominent location with an explanation **The Community Circle Project**.



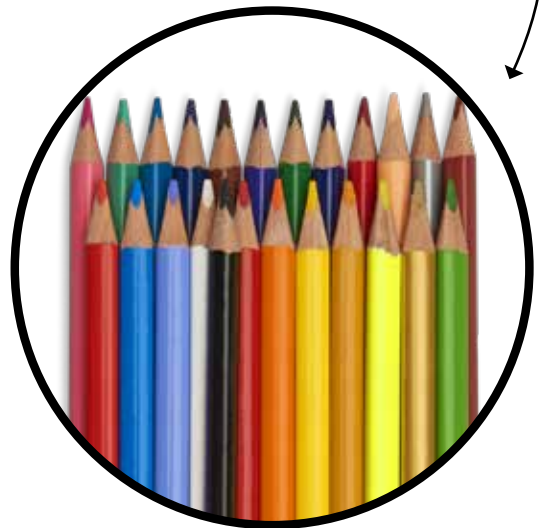


MATERIALS

- Sharpie® Twin-Tip Marker, Black [[9716298A](#)]
- No. 2 pencil
- Ballpoint pen
- 3 to 4 various size circles to use as templates to trace (yogurt container, pill bottle, canned good, etc.)
- Plain white paper (any weight, based on preference; copier paper is fine)

ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL MATERIALS

- Sharpie® Fine-Point Markers, 8-Colour Basic Set ([9718911](#))
- Prang® Colouring Pencils - 72 Pack ([215433](#))



RESOURCES:

SANDY COLEMAN, ARTIST,
ART EDUCATOR & MAGAZINE EDITOR



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WEBSITE:

THE COMMUNITY CIRCLE PROJECT

www.communitycircleproject.com



@communitycircleproject

Use #communitycircleproject

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