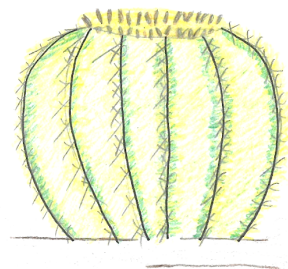


Elements of Art: Forms

The elements of art are the basis from which artists create their artwork. Forms are three-dimensional shapes that convey length, width, and depth. There are two types of forms, geometric and organic. Geometric forms are mathematical and can be named by their shapes: sphere, cube, cone, cylinder, pyramid, etc. You can see this form most commonly in architecture. Organic forms are curvy, free flowing, and irregular. You can see this form in nature, such as in trees, flowers, clouds, and the human body.

For our activity, we'll focus on the organic form. As you drive down the road or walk around your neighborhood, it's easy to spot all kinds of cacti. Two kinds of cacti that are indigenous to Southern California are the Barrel and Prickly Pear. The barrel is covered in yellow spines that converge on the top to form a bright yellow center. The mature barrel is so highly coveted that it's known for being poached from people's yards. The prickly pear is remarkable because it's almost entirely edible. Once you remove the spikes from the pads, you can cook them and eat it. This cactus grows pink-colored fruit, which tastes tangy. The fruit is commonly used as an ingredient in jams, ice cream, and margaritas. Yum!

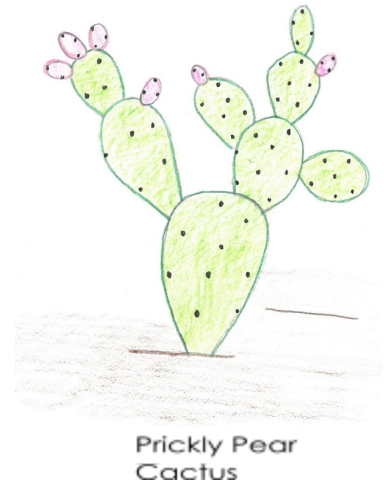
Barrel Cactus



Activity:

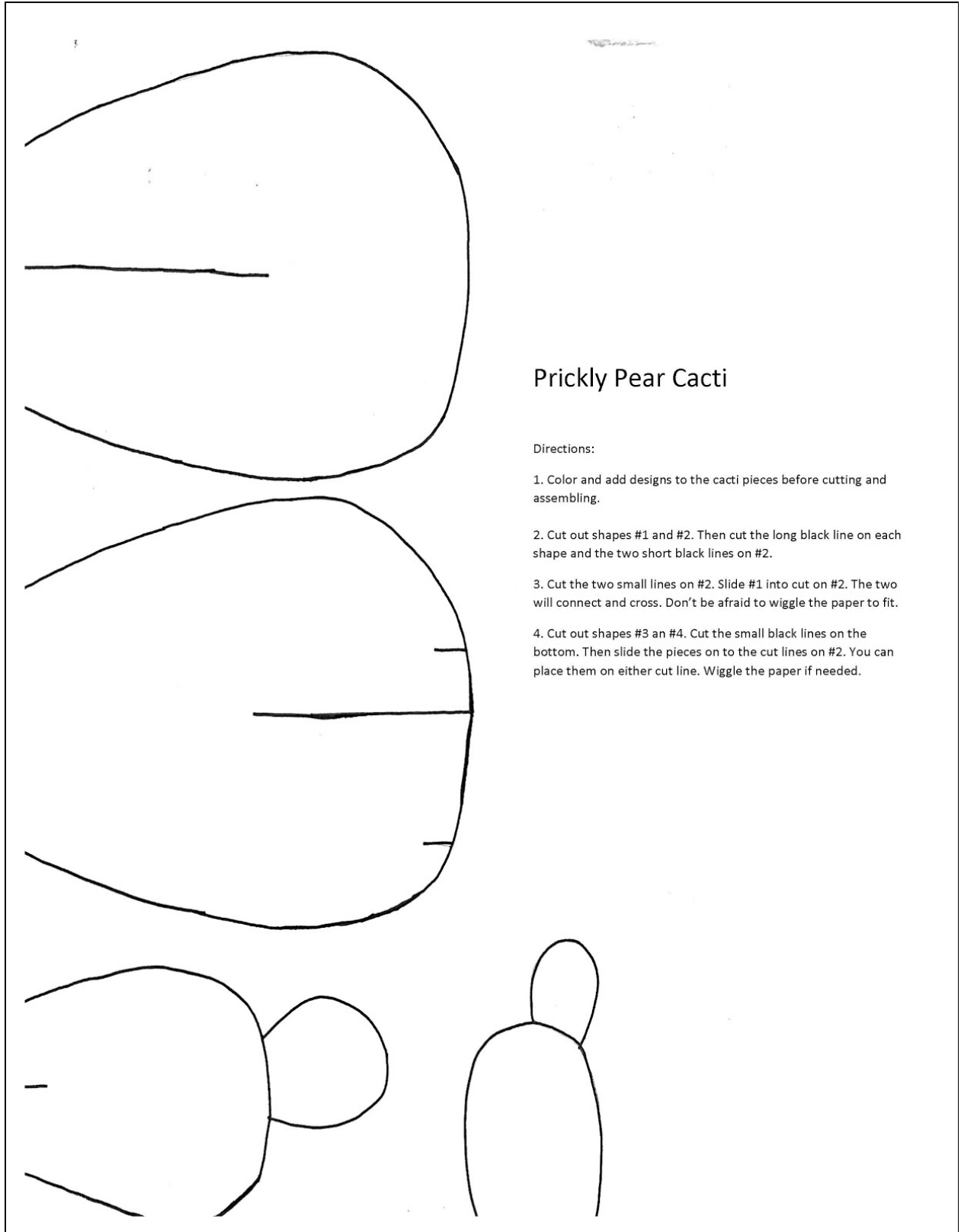
Practice creating organic forms by making your very own cactus sculpture.

1. Follow the directions on the template below to cut and assemble the 3-D paper sculpture. Note: Print the templates on cardstock for best assembly. If the paper is too thin, it won't assemble correctly.
2. Feel free to create both the barrel and the prickly pear cactus.
3. Use your art supplies at home to color and draw the cactus. Be creative, add patterns, draw characters, make it unique.
4. Feel free to share it! Put it on display in your home or take a picture of it and share it with your friends online, or share it with us by tagging us.



Example of a finished sculpture:





Prickly Pear Cacti

Directions:

1. Color and add designs to the cacti pieces before cutting and assembling.
2. Cut out shapes #1 and #2. Then cut the long black line on each shape and the two short black lines on #2.
3. Cut the two small lines on #2. Slide #1 into cut on #2. The two will connect and cross. Don't be afraid to wiggle the paper to fit.
4. Cut out shapes #3 and #4. Cut the small black lines on the bottom. Then slide the pieces on to the cut lines on #2. You can place them on either cut line. Wiggle the paper if needed.

