

**Meeting People in Portraits**  
**Pre-Visit Worksheet**  
**Personality Descriptions in Words and Color**  
**Vocabulary List**

**Abstract** – A style of painting that does not show exactly what is happening in real life and is usually from the artist’s imagination

**Background** – In a portrait, the color or images in back of the sitter that describe the scene behind or the personality of the sitter

**Collage** – Pieces of paper or other materials fixed to a larger piece of paper or canvas.

**En Plein Air** – A French term meaning “in the open air” used to describe a technique that Impressionist painters used when painting a landscape outside

**Etching** – A printing technique in which an artist scratches lines into a metal plate, then applies ink to the plate before pressing it onto paper. The same image can be created multiple times.

**Foreground** – In a portrait, objects or space in front of the sitter, usually near the bottom of the image and appearing closer to the viewer. If the subject appears to be the closest thing to the viewer, it is in the foreground.

**Framing** – What the artist has decided to include within the boundaries of the artwork

**Horizon Line** – When looking outside, the point where the sky meets the earth

**Impressionism** – A style of painting that uses short brushstrokes and allows the viewer to see the paint layers, giving an impression of what is happening in a scene but not always giving a lot of details

**Landscape** – A picture of an outdoor scene, usually with a horizon line

**Middle Ground** – The part of the portrait that appears between the foreground and the background

**Model** – A person who poses for a picture

**Portrait** – An image of a person or group of people

**Pose** – A position that a model stands or sits in for a picture

**Printmaking** – A category of making art that is used to describe the many different ways of applying an inked image usually to paper in a uniform way, so that all of the prints look the same

**Profile** – A picture or representation of the side view of a head

**Proportion** – The relationship between the size of objects and their distance from one another within an image

**Seascape** – A picture of an ocean scene, usually with a horizon line

**Sight Line** – The line of vision that an artist chooses for a picture

**Silhouette** – The outline or shadow of a person

**Still Life** – A picture of one or more objects grouped together, such as glass bottles, fruit or flowers

**Studio** – A room used by artists for creating artwork

**Vantage Point** – The place from which the artist paints the portrait and how the viewer sees the subject matter. For example, if it appears that you as the viewer are looking down upon the subject of the portrait, your vantage point is from above.

**Viewer** – A person who looks at a piece of art

**Watercolor** – A painting technique that uses a brush to apply water and colored pigments to paper

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**Activity Sheet**

**At-Home Portrait Activity**

Draw a Loved One: Using pencil and paper, have students ask a loved one to sit for them so they can draw his or her portrait. Be sure to include objects in the background or next to the sitter that say something about his or her personality.

**Classroom Portrait Activity**

Portrait Collage: Using images or words cut and pasted from magazines, have students create a self-portrait collage describing their hobbies, things they like or things that describe their personality.

Word Description Portrait: Using colored pencils or markers, have students write words on construction paper that represent their hobbies, things they like or things that describe their personality. You can also have students draw their silhouettes and write the words inside of them, then color the background with their favorite color or a pattern.

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Partner Portraits: Using colored pencils or markers, pair up students and have them draw their partner on a piece of paper. Be sure to have them include objects in the background or next to their partner that tell the viewer something about his or her personality.

Self-Portrait: *Note – It is important to lead a color theory and color mixing session before beginning a portrait session. This will help students to define skin and hair tones.*

Using mirrors have students create their own portraits with acrylic paint on canvas or canvas boards. Draw the outline in pencil first on a large piece of drawing paper. Then draw over the outline with charcoal. The charcoal outline can then be transferred onto the canvas by putting the paper on the canvas charcoal-side down and rubbing the back of the paper with their hand. Once the outline is in place, have students use acrylic paint to finish the portrait.

**Resources:**

Color mixing

<http://www.color-wheel-artist.com/hue.html>

<http://everyoneandraw.net/>

Draw a Face in Proportion: front view by Paul Priestly

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WROSZ6803cE>

Proportions of the Face by onefineartist19

<http://www.pinterest.com/pin/427771664581383949/>

*Art for Kids: Drawing: The Only Drawing Book You'll Ever Need to Be the Artist You've Always Wanted to Be* by [Kathryn Temple](#)