

**Masterpiece:** Senecio, Head of A Man

**Artist:** Paul Klee (Pronunciation: Paul "Clay")

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**Concept:** Shape

**Grade:** Second Grade August/September

**Lesson:** Geometric Faces

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**Objectives:** A. To create a human face using various geometric shapes  
B. Students will learn to identify shapes and increase their skill in arranging colors harmoniously

**Vocabulary:** Shape, Color, Harmony

**Materials:** \*Colored 9" x 12" construction paper  
\*Colored construction paper cut in 8" circles  
\*Some pre-cut shapes in various colors  
\*Scissors  
\*Glue  
\*Alternate Materials: Use 8" paper plates for face

Briefly discuss Paul Klee's life and work and talk about the various shapes he used in Senecio. Discuss the following questions with the class:

- #How do we know this is a face? *Head, eyes, nose, mouth*
- #What **shapes** do you see? *Circle, triangles, rectangles, squares*
- #Are any of the **shapes** repeated? *Eyes, ears*

**Process:**

1. Now give one 8" colored pre-cut circle of construction paper and one 9" x 12" colored construction paper to each child.
2. Have the students glue down the 8" circle in the center of the 9" x 12" paper in "hot dog" or vertical/portrait position. This will be the head.
3. Continue with a rectangle shape for the neck, and glue it down.
4. Draw on the board an almond shape and have the students cut almond shapes for the eyes. Show them the direction of how to glue down the almond shapes for the eyes (horizontal) and how far apart the eyes would normally be.
5. Next, they may also want to put a small circle inside of each eye to make pupils.
6. Using different shapes and colors have the students glue down their nose and mouth to complete their face.
7. Make sure they write their name on their artwork.
8. Allow portraits to air-dry.
9. Hang outside the classroom and enjoy!

### Meet The Artist:

- Paul Klee (pronounced Clay) was born in Switzerland in 1879. (About the same time as the invention of the automobile.)
- As a boy, he was a violinist and his parents were musicians too.
- He also loved art as well as music and his grandmother was the person who taught him how to draw and paint.
- When he grew a little older, he had to choose between becoming a musician or an artist. In the end he chose to be an artist.
- He married a concert pianist and she would go to work and Paul would be at home doing his art.
- His art was very colorful and fun. He really liked art that was done by children and sometimes he tried to make his art look like it was done by a child.
- He also liked to paint more than one painting at a time; he could have up to 12 paintings in his studio all half way done. By the end of his career, Klee painted over 8,000 paintings.

### Questions:

What do you see in this picture? *A face*

How do we know this is a face? *Head, eyes, nose and mouth.*

What shapes do you see? *Circle, triangles, rectangles and squares.*

Are any of the shapes repeated? *Eyes, Ears*

PAUL K L E E

## (1879-1940)

Paul Klee was born in Switzerland in 1879. He was born into a musical family. His mother was a singer and his father was a music teacher. As a boy, he was a violinist. He also loved art as well as music and his grandmother was the person who taught him how to draw and paint. When he grew a little older, he had to choose between becoming a musician or an artist. In the end he chose to be an artist. In 1898 he decided to move to Munich, Germany to study art.

Paul Klee's art is known as abstract or contemporary art. Many of his greatest paintings are just colors and shapes. He loved color and most of his paintings are filled with beautiful and exciting colors. He traveled around the world and was influenced by primitive art, the masks of Africa and European puppet shows. Klee wanted his paintings to show worlds that had never been seen before.

He married a concert pianist and she would go to work and Paul would be at home doing his art. His art was very colorful and fun. He really liked art that was done by children and sometimes he tried to make his art look like it was done by a child. He blended humor and wit into his paintings and many of them are considered "childlike".

He was known for working on as many as 12 paintings at a time. He worked on Senecio: Head of a Man for several years. He added and changed colors and shapes here and there to create the composition and color harmonies he wanted. Because of his musical background he gave some of his paintings a musical feel. Even though his paintings don't have sound, Paul's patterns of color and shapes make many people imagine the rhythm of music.

By the end of his career, Klee painted over 8,000 paintings. Klee died in Switzerland on June 29, 1940 of a rare disease.

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Lesson: Paper Collage

Project Samples:

