

Vivaldi's Four Seasons – Summer



Sonnet: Summer – Concerto in G Minor

Beneath the blazing sun's relentless heat
 men and flocks are sweltering,
 pines are scorched.

We hear the cuckoo's voice; then sweet songs of the turtle dove and finch are heard.

Soft breezes stir the air.... but threatening north wind sweeps them suddenly aside. The shepherd trembles,
 fearful of violent storm and what may lie ahead.

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Antonio Vivaldi was born on March 4, 1678 in Venice, Italy. Antonio's father, Giovanni Battista, a barber before becoming a violinist, taught young Antonio to play the violin and then toured Venice playing the violin with him. At the age of 15, Antonio began training to become a priest. At the age of 25, he was ordained a priest and soon after became known as the *Il Prete Rosso*, "The Red Priest", because of his red hair. Due to his health, he left the priesthood in 1703 after only 3 years. But he was still able to pursue a career in music. Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, composed in 1723, is a set of four concertos for violin. It is his most popular work and is among the most popular works of the Baroque Era. For this composition he wrote sonnets to match each season. At the age of 25, Antonio Vivaldi was named master of violin at the Ospedale della Pietà (Devout Hospital of Mercy) in Venice. He composed most of his major works in this position over three decades. The Ospedale was an institution where orphaned girls received musical instruction on the violin. Vivaldi's work, including 500 concertos, have influenced other composers, including Johann Sebastian Bach.

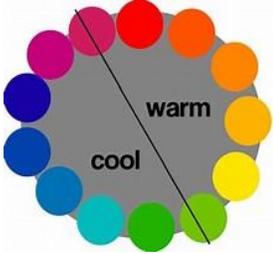
About the Music:

The Four Seasons is a group of four violin concerti by Italian composer Antonio Vivaldi, each of which gives musical expression to a season of the year. They were written around 1716–1717 and published in 1725 in Amsterdam. Unusual for the period, Vivaldi published the concerti with accompanying sonnets (possibly written by the composer himself) that clarified what it was in the spirit of each season that his music was intended to evoke. The concerti therefore stand as one of the earliest and most detailed examples of what would come to be called program music—i.e., music with a narrative element. Vivaldi took great pains to relate his music to the texts of the poems, translating the poetic lines themselves directly into the music on the page. For example, in the middle section of "Spring", when the goatherd sleeps, his barking dog can be heard in the viola section. The music is elsewhere similarly reminiscent of other natural sounds. Vivaldi divided each concerto into three movements (fast–slow–fast), and, likewise, each linked sonnet into three sections.

About the Art Project:

This project is inspired by [Vivaldi's Summer](#) and the contrast between the heat of the summer and the approaching storm as depicted in the Sonnet above. This project will contrast the warm colors of the summer sun with the cool colors of the approaching rain. As you listen to the music think about the colors of summer and the approaching storm!

This project will explore line, shape, form. warm/cool colors, pattern, value, and contrast.

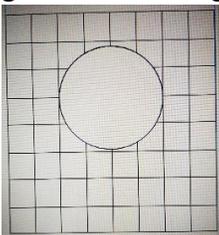


Materials:

- White -Mixed Media paper, construction paper, or printer paper
- Pencil and eraser
- colored markers, pencils, or Crayons
- Black permanent marker
- Medium size round plastic lid – check your recyclables or Tupperware!
- ruler

Directions:

1. Select type of paper you wish to use. Begin by having the student lightly draw out a grid using a ruler and pencil. Lines should run vertically and horizontally and can be 1" thick or the width of your ruler for ease.
2. Once the grid is completed, trace the sun in the center of the grid using pencil and the plastic lid. Erase any grid lines running through the circle with an eraser.



3. Draw or trace your bird in front of the circle (sun). See instructions below or cut one out of a magazine and glue it on. You can use the black marker or black Crayon to draw the bird sitting on a branch, as seen in the example – your choice!



4. Now you are ready to color. Using cool colors (shades of blue, purple, or grey) and working in the top third of the grid begin to create a color pattern that will make up the sky. Choose three cool colors or select one color and create different color values using the one color – get creative.
5. For the lower 1/3 use different greens and teal to create the effect of grass. This is optional or you can fill the grid in from top to bottom using just one-color pattern.
6. For the sun you will draw horizontal lines (make some close and some farther apart for a great visual effect) and color these in in warm colors like red, yellow, and orange. You can do this randomly to create some contrast between the color patterns of the grid and bird.



7. Finally, moving on to the bird and beginning in the middle of the image – draw a more organic shape. Follow the outline of this original shape and continue outlining it, getting larger and larger until you have filled in the entire silhouette. Using warm color again begin to color in the organic shapes in a color pattern. Have fun creating this colorful project!

Notes: Organic shapes in art refers to **shapes** that have less well-defined edges as opposed to geometric **shapes**.

ALSO, if you create this image on copy paper using colored marker, hang it in the window on a sunny day – the colors come alive!

Project by: Monica Tolas

