Polar Bear
Inspired by Ted Harrison
Line, Shape, & Texture
What could be cuter than a cozy, textured polar bear? Adding a Ted Harrison-inspired background! Combine the two and you’ll have a lesson that will have your kindergarteners engaged while learning about line and texture as well as a little Canadian art history.

ABOUT TED HARRISON

Ted Harrison (1925-2015) was born in England, but relocated to Northern Canada in 1967, where he became inspired by his surroundings to paint the landscape of the Yukon. His artwork is easily recognizable for his bright, contrasting color palettes and swirling, whimsical lines. Harrison also was known for illustrating children’s books.

WHAT YOU’LL NEED:

- 9” x 12” watercolor paper for background
- 9” x 12” white sulphite paper for bear
- Liquid watercolors
- Medium round paintbrush
- Black oil pastel or crayon
- Waterproof black marker

Check out more of Harrison’s art!
CREATING THE LANDSCAPE

- Start with a piece of 9” x 12” watercolor paper turned VERTICAL to start your LANDSCAPE.
- Use a black oil pastel or crayon to draw a CURVED LINE across the bottom of the page from right to left.
- Start from the left side and draw another curved line that INTERSECTS or runs into your first line near the middle of the page.
- Draw another curved line from right to left, then one more back left to right again.
- Now you’re ready for the mountains in the BACKGROUND. Draw a tall, curved upside down “U” shape for the tallest mountain.
- Add a few more OVERLAPPING mountains. Notice the shapes that the lines made. They are called ORGANIC SHAPES.
- Pass out a palette of liquid watercolors.
- Choose a color for the sky. Instead of painting the sky in a smooth, solid color, use your paintbrush to make short, curved lines. Wash your paintbrush out and then do the same with a second color. You can repeat with as many colors as you’d like.
- Next, choose a color for one of the mountains. Paint around the inside edge of the mountain first, then move your paintbrush back and forth from top to bottom to fill in the entire shape with a smooth layer of color.
- Paint the rest of the mountains and the ground different colors using the same techniques.
- Using more water can help to lighten colors and make the paint go on the paper very smoothly.

LANDSCAPE: A PICTURE OF THE OUTDOOR OR NATURE
DRAWING THE POLAR BEAR

○ Start with a 9” x 12” piece of white paper turned VERTICAL. You can reference the drawing guide on page 6.

○ Use a waterproof black marker to draw an OVAL near the center of your paper for the nose. If you can still see some oval when you place your fingertip on top of it, it’s big enough. Color it in with your marker.

○ Draw a short straight line down from the oval, then add a curved, smiling mouth.

○ Put your marker beneath the mouth, then draw a line that curves around the mouth and up over the nose, coming back down on the other side of the mouth to connect, making a tall oval.

○ Draw two CIRCLES for eyes on each side of the large oval.

○ For the body, start at the bottom left corner of your paper and draw a line that curves up and around the face, then back down near the bottom right corner of the paper.

○ Add two bumps for ears near the top of the head.

○ Inside the body, draw two curved lines for arms, one on each side of the body.

○ Lastly, add some short lines to depict the fur TEXTURE of your polar bear. Add the lines around the outside of the body and the outside of the face.

Drawing Guide on Page 6!
FINISHING TOUCHES

☐ Cut your polar bear out along the outside edge as close as you can to the black line.

☐ Turn the bear over and use a glue stick to add glue around the edges of the bear shape, then in the center. Ensure your background is dry first!

☐ Flip the bear over on top of your landscape. Make sure that the bottom of the polar bear lines up with the bottom of the landscape.

TIP: To make sure that the polar bear sticks to the paper, turn the paper over and use your hands to lightly rub the back of the paper. Count to five before flipping over again.
1. Draw a circle and two dots near the middle of your paper. Add a nose and mouth.

2. Draw a big upside-down "U" for the body, and two smaller ones for the arms.

3. Add ears and claws, and use dots to give your polar bear form.
CREATING

- Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work — Exploration & imaginative play with materials
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work — Experiment to build skills in art-making through various media—Identify safe and non-toxic materials—create art of different environments
- Refine and complete artistic work—Explain process while creating art

PRESENTING/PRODUCING

- Analyze, interpret and select artistic work for presentation— Explain why artwork is chosen for portfolio or personal display
- Develop and refine artistic work for presentation — Explain the purpose of a portfolio or collection
- Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work — Explain what an art museum is and why it is different from other buildings

RESPONDING

- Perceive and analyze artistic work- Identify uses of art within one’s personal environment—describe what an image represents
- Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work — Interpret art by identifying subject matter and describing relevant details
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work— Explain reasons for selecting a preferred artwork

CONNECTING

- Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art- Create art that tells a story about a life experience
- Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding —Identify a purpose of an artwork
I CAN STATEMENTS FOR TED HARRISON POLAR BEAR

• Today I will learn about Canadian artist, TED HARRISON so that I CAN use his artwork as inspiration to create my own LANDSCAPE.

• Today I will learn about LINE so that I CAN use CURVED LINES to create my landscape and STRAIGHT, short lines to create a fur TEXTURE on my polar bear.

• Today I will learn about SHAPE so that I CAN create ORGANIC SHAPES for my mountains and ground and use shapes like CIRCLES and OVALS to draw my polar bear.

COMMON CORE STANDARDS FOR TED HARRISON POLAR BEAR

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.K.7
With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the story in which they appear (e.g., what moment in a story an illustration depicts).
As you read through the story, you can have students talk about the illustrations and why they were picked to go with that part of the text.

CCSS.Math.Content.K.G.A.1
Describe objects in the environment using names of shapes, and describe the relative positions of these objects using terms such as above, below, beside, in front of, behind, and next to.
As students draw the mountains and land in the their background, you can use words like above, below and beside to describe the positions of the lines that they are drawing. When they finish, you can have them identify lines based on those directional words. For example: Which line is above this line? How many lines did you draw below this line?

CCSS.Math.Content.K.CC.B.5
Count to answer "how many?" questions about as many as 20 things arranged in a line, a rectangular array, or a circle, or as many as 10 things in a scattered configuration; given a number from 1-20, count out that many objects.
After students are done drawing their background, you can have them count the number of lines they drew and share that number with a partner or with the class.
Can the student tell me three facts about Ted Harrison and his artwork?

Did the student create a landscape using curved lines and organic shapes?

Did the student use short, straight lines to add a fur texture to their polar bear?