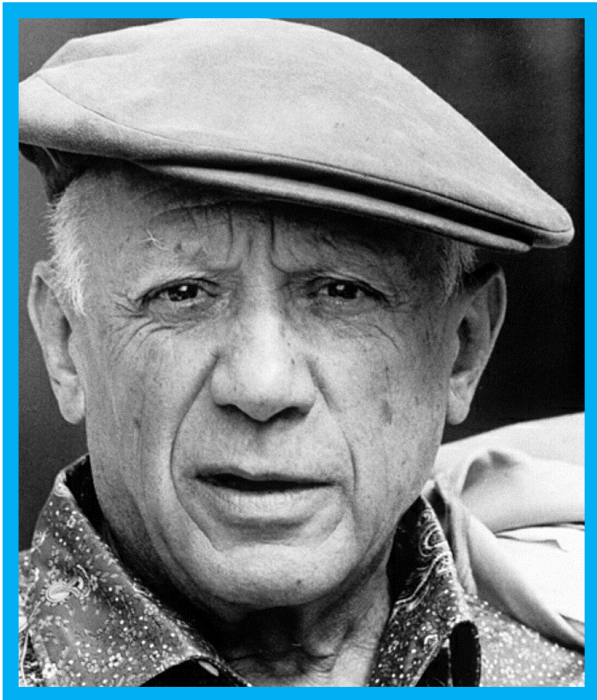# Pablo Picasso
Polygon Portraits

Meet the Artist

Pablo Picasso
1881-1973

"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."

– Pablo Picasso

Pablo Picasso was one of the most important artists of the 20th Century. Picasso was born in Malaga, Spain to a conventional artistic family. From an early age, he was a very good artist and began displaying his work from the age of 14. Picasso was a painter, sculptor, poet, and ceramic artist and he created over 50,000 works of art in his lifetime!

Picasso's early career went though various stages including the **Blue Period** and the **Rose Period** but the work he is most famous for a style he created with artist Georges Braque called **CUBISM**. Cubism involved capturing the essence of the subject but exaggerating certain features, using simple geometric shapes to represent more complicated forms, and showing several viewpoints all at once.

Look closely at the portraits that Picasso painted and notice how the facial features seem to be from **different viewpoints**. Can you find an example where the mouth is seen from the side and the eye is seen from the front—all at the same time? Can you find an example where the facial features do not line up? We are going to create a self-portrait using some of these characteristics .

Materials: paper, pencil, ruler, black marker, markers or crayons

Procedures:

1. Create 5 diagonal folds on your paper then then smooth the paper out flat.

2. Each shape that you see is called a **POLYGON** A polygon is a closed shape with straight sides. How many of each of these different types polygons did you create?
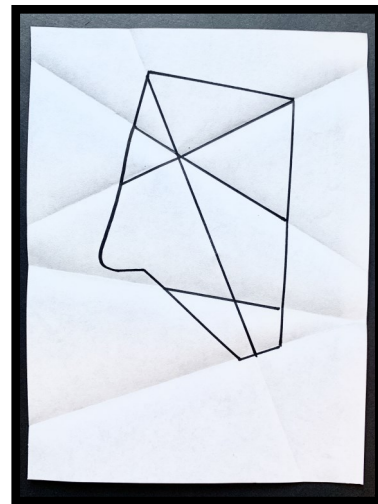
Triangle: a shape with 3 straight sides

Quadrilateral: a shape with 4 straight sides

Trapezoid: a quadrilateral with 2 sides that are parallel

Parallelogram: a quadrilateral with 2 sets of parallel lines
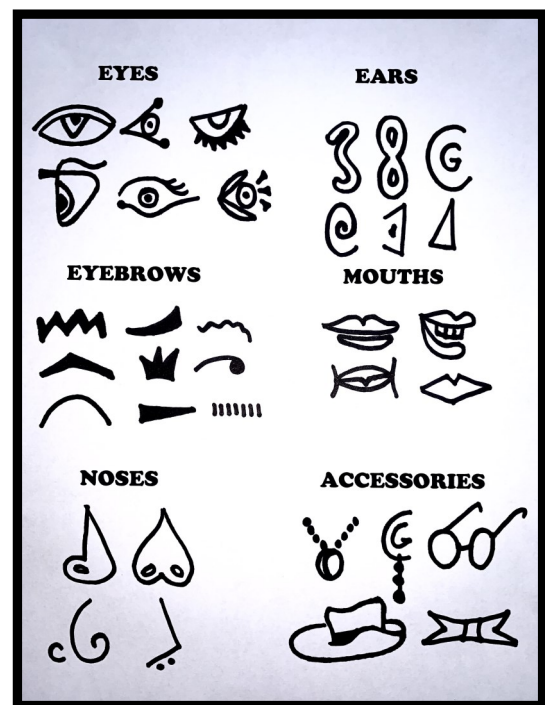
Pentagon: a shape with 5 sides

3. Next, define where the edge of the face will be by tracing existing lines, drawing new ones, or a combination of both. If you want to add a nose from the side (also called profile) view you can do that now.

4. Using a black marker, trace all fold lines that are on the face.

5. Now you can add your facial features to each polygon, changing viewpoints when you change shapes. Be sure to make some features from the front and some from the profile view. Here are some examples but use your imagination!

5. Next, add any features that are unique to you, such as glasses, freckles, hair, jewelry, etc. You may want to add a shirt or other accessories.
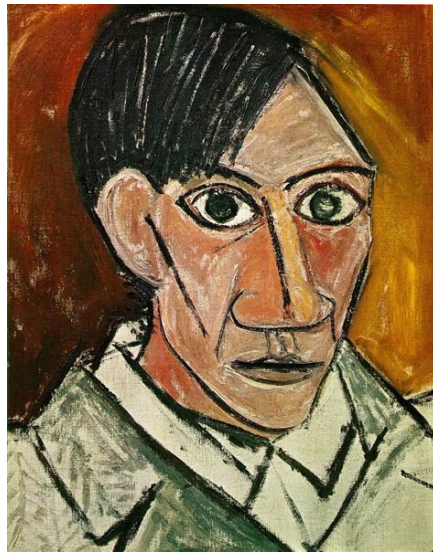
6. Finally, color your creation with markers, crayons, or both!

Watch a free video of this lesson on

Search for "Arts Center of Coastal Carolina"

Pablo Picasso, *Self-portrait*, 1907

This program is sponsored by

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With generous support from the SC Arts Commission

Beaufort Fund and Women's Association of Hilton Head Island.