

Making the Ordinary "POP!"

NationalDayClassroom.com

Students will understand that art can be inspired by everyday objects and will create their own masterpiece using bold colors, repetition, and "Ben-Day" dots.

1. The Hook: What is "Popular" Art?

- **Discuss:** Ask the class, *"What are some things everyone knows or sees every day?"* (Examples: cereal boxes, soda cans, sneakers, emojis, or video game characters).
- **Explain:** Tell them that in the 1950s and 60s, artists like **Andy Warhol** and **Roy Lichtenstein** decided that these "popular" things were just as important as fancy landscapes or portraits.
- **Fun Fact:** Point out that **January 28th** is officially National Pop Art Day to celebrate how this movement made art fun and accessible for everyone!

2. The Vocabulary (3 Key Elements)

1. **Bold Lines:** Thick black outlines that make objects "pop" from the background.
2. **Primary Colors:** Using bright Red, Blue, and Yellow (often straight from the tube).
3. **Onomatopoeia:** "Sound words" often seen in comic books (POW! BAM! SNAP!).

3. Hands-On Activity Options

Option A: The "Soup Can" Re-Mix (Andy Warhol Style)

- **The Task:** Have students pick a modern "everyday" item (a smartphone, a Takis bag, a Starbucks cup).
- **The Method:** Fold a piece of paper into four quadrants. Draw the same object in each square.
- **The "Pop" Factor:** Use a different "wild" color scheme for each square (e.g., a purple iPhone with a green background in one, and a neon pink iPhone with a blue background in the next).

Option B: Comic Book Sound Effects (Roy Lichtenstein Style)

- **The Task:** Students choose a "sound word" (like *ZAP!* or *CRUNCH!*).
- **The Method:** Draw the word in large, blocky "bubble" letters inside a jagged

starburst shape.

- **The "Pop" Factor:** Use **Ben-Day Dots!** Instead of coloring the background solid, use the eraser end of a pencil dipped in paint (or a marker) to make a grid of small dots to fill in the space.

4. Classroom "Gallery Walk"

Tape the finished projects to the wall in a grid. Because Pop Art is all about mass production and repetition, the wall will look like a professional art gallery display.

Wrap-up Questions:

- Why did you choose your specific object?
- How does the object look different when it has neon colors instead of normal colors?
- Does the repetition of the 4 squares make the object look more "important"?

Teacher Tips for National Pop Art Day:

- **Snack Connection:** Since Andy Warhol is famous for his soup cans, consider having a "Pop Art Picnic" with bright-colored snacks like fruit skewers or colorful crackers.
- **Integration:** Link this to English Language Arts by focusing on **Onomatopoeia** or to Social Studies by discussing how advertisements influence what we think is "cool."

Reference Link for Students: [National Pop Art Day - National Day Calendar](https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-pop-art-day/)