

DRAWING TO MUSIC

Est. Time: 30-60 minutes

Subjects: Art, Music, Social Studies

Age Range: Elementary, but fun for anyone!

See the full lesson [here!](#)

This lesson was created with support from the Blackwing Foundation




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What is synesthesia and how might sound be reflected through art?

In this lesson you will:

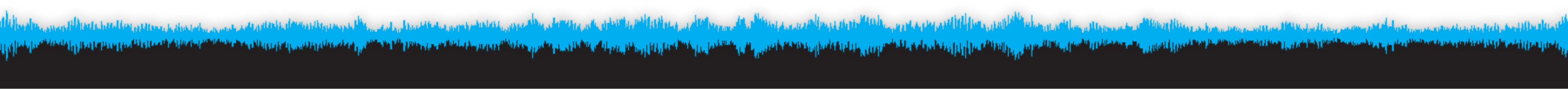
- Identify what synesthesia means
 - Discover how synesthesia affects the music of Billie Eilish and her collaborator/brother, Finneas Eilish
 - Explore synesthesia in art through a painting by artist Wassily Kandinsky
 - Draw to music!
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Synesthesia


[sin-uh s-thee-zhuh]

a sensation produced in one modality when a stimulus is applied to another modality.

- For our purposes, “modality” means “sense,” like taste or touch
 - Let’s explore synesthesia as the connections between sight and sound
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Consider or ask a friend:

- When you hear music, do you picture images or colors?
 - Can you think of a time you associate something you experience with one sense with an experience from a different sense?
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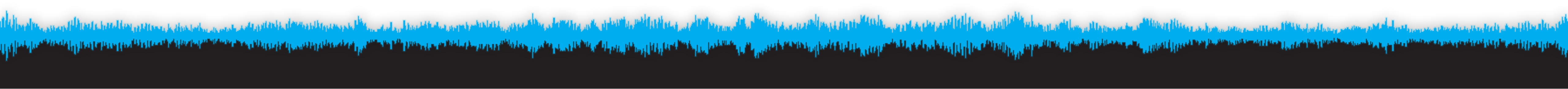


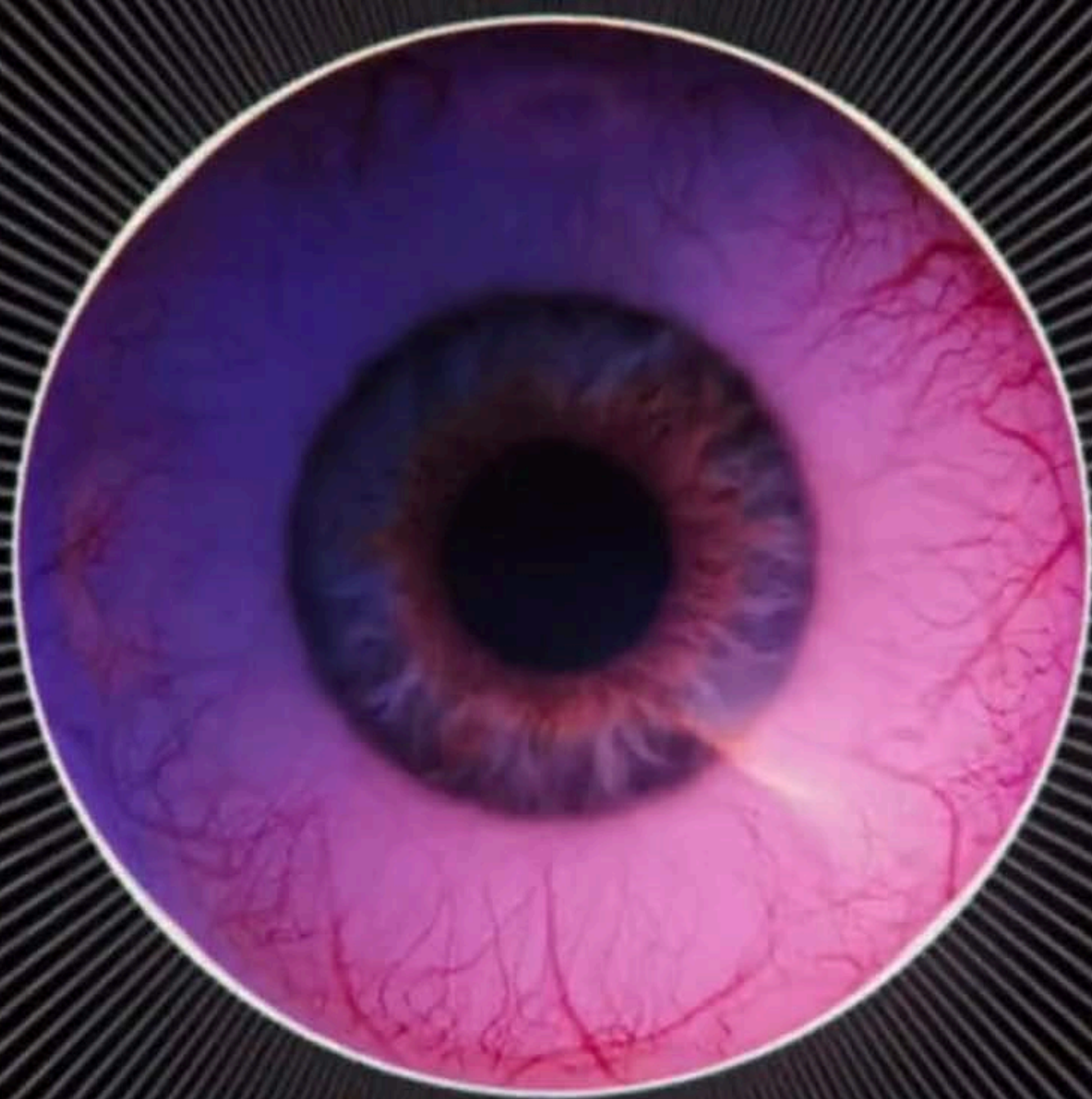
LIVE KINETIC PAINTING TO “THE SEA” (JURA)

Watch [this video](#) and focus on how the music and painting interact.



Consider or ask a friend:

- In what ways do you think the painter reacted to elements of the music?
 - Did you feel any connections between the music and accompanying visual art? If so, how?
 - If you were painting to this piece, do you think you'd approach it like this artist, or differently? If differently, how?
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BILLIE EILISH - A SNIPPET INTO BILLIE'S MIND

Watch Billie Eilish and her brother/collaborator, Finneas Eilish, discuss how they “see” music in this clip.



Consider or ask a friend:

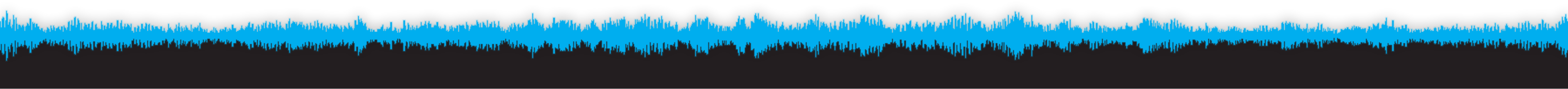
- How do you think synesthesia is reflected in the work of Billie and Finneas Eilish?
 - Do you feel that you can “see” Billie Eilish’s music? If so, how?
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This is Composition VII (1913) by Wassily Kandinsky, a Russian painter whose work spanned the late-19th to mid-20th centuries. Kandinsky is considered a pioneer of “abstract art” and has been called a “visual musician.” He was most likely a synesthete.





Consider or ask a friend:

- Do you see anything “musical” in this painting, “Composition VII”? Feel free to zoom in!
 - Think back to the painting to music video--do you see any possible connections to Kandinsky?
 - How might the idea of “composition” between music, writing, and visual art be similar? How might it be different?
 - Can you imagine Kandinsky painting to Billie Eilish? What might it look like?
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SUMMARY

- We explored Synesthesia as connections between the senses of sight and sound
- Billie and Finneas Eilish experience synesthesia and the phenomenon is reflected in their music and music videos
- Painter Wassily Kandinsky was likely a synesthete who saw each painting as a composition--in the musical sense--of color and form



BE CREATIVE

Draw to music!

Cue up our Synesthesia [YouTube Playlist](#) (or make your own!).

- Put out one piece of paper for each song.
- When the song begins, try to draw without thinking. What happens? If you'd like, continue to draw for as long as you wish.



CONNECT

- Connect with a classmate who did the same project. Show them your drawings without the music and have them guess which songs they correspond to
- Share it with us! Either you or an adult in your life can share your work with TeachRock on **Instagram** or **Facebook**, email to **info@teachrock.org**, or Tweet it to **@TeachRock**





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Please check back to teachrock.org/distancelearning frequently as we will update the material daily!