

# Marvelous Mittens

*These personalized projects can be used as a springboard to explore how mittens warm and protect hands in cold, wintry weather.*

## Art Concepts

line  
color  
pattern  
symmetry



## Let's Begin

Display the completed project. Ask children to examine the mittens and describe the kinds of lines they see on them. Do any lines repeat on the mittens? Next, have them name the colors on the mittens. Are there any repeating colors? Highlight the line and color patterns on the mitten pair. Then, have children compare the two mittens to each other. What similarities do they see? After sharing their observations, point out that both mittens are decorated with the same line and color patterns. Explain that the mittens are mirror images of each other—they are symmetrical in shape and design.

Tell children that they will design and create a pair of symmetrical mittens. Pass out the materials and demonstrate the procedures as children follow along.

## Materials

### To display:

- completed project

### For each child:

- two 9- by 12-inch sheets of light construction paper in the same color
- pencil
- scissors
- fine-tip black permanent marker

### To share:

- 15 tagboard mitten templates (page 179)
- oil pastels (one box for every two children)



## Timesaving Tip!

Ask every two children to share a mitten template. Have the children take turns tracing and cutting out one mitten at a time.

## Step by Step

1. Use a pencil to trace a mitten template onto both of the 9- by 12-inch sheets of paper. Cut out each shape.
2. Pencil in a set of parallel lines near the finger end of a mitten. Use a straight, curvy, zigzag, or castle-top line design, or any other type of line of your choice. Be sure to draw the lines about one-half to one inch apart.
3. Draw another pair of parallel lines about one inch from the first set. Then, add a third and fourth set of parallel lines. You might use different kinds of lines for each set.
4. Draw a straight line to section off the cuff at the wrist end of the mitten. Fill in that section with the design of your choice.
5. Position the other mitten on the table with the thumb touching the thumb of the first mitten. Then, using the first mitten as a guide, draw the same lines and designs onto the second mitten. When finished, you'll have a matching left and right mitten.
6. Trace all the lines with the black marker. Then, use oil pastels in the colors of your choice to color both mittens so that they match.



## Language Arts Link

Tell children that a pair of mittens is made up of a right and left mitten. Explain that *right* and *left* are opposites. Invite them to name other opposites such as *top/bottom*, *front/back*, and *big/little*. Write their responses on the chalkboard. Then, ask children to select five opposite pairs from the list to illustrate on separate sheets of paper. Have them write the opposite pair for each picture, staple the pages between two construction-paper covers, and then title the booklet "My Opposites Book." Challenge more advanced children to include ten opposite pairs in their booklets and to write sentences describing the opposite relationship of the items in their drawings.

## One Step More

Connect the pair of mittens by taping each end of a 12-inch length of yarn to the back of a mitten.

## Related Reading



- Missing Mittens* by Stuart J. Murphy (HarperTrophy, 2000)
- The Mitten* by Jan Brett (Putnam, 1989)
- The Mitten Tree* by Candace Christiansen (Fulcrum Publishing, 1997)
- One Mitten* by Kristine O'Connell George (Clarion, 2004)

# Mitten Pattern

