

Discovering “Lines” in Art, Crafts, Graphic Art and Interior Design

4-H Line and Design Project

Part of the Family and Consumer Sciences 4-H Project Series

Project Outcomes: Understand elements of design: **Line**.
Identify the element of design “Line” in specific works of art.

Project Indicator: Complete the exercises (projects) in the activity using lines to create and identify designs.

Look around you; what do you see? Everything that you look at is made up of the different elements of design. All objects are defined by lines. LINE is considered the most basic of the elements of design.

Whether you are looking at a painting, a woven basket, a computer produced piece of art, or the furniture in your bedroom, you are viewing lines.

Some facts about Line:

- Line has an endless number of uses in the creation of arts, crafts, graphic art, or interior design;
- **Line creates movement:** it controls the viewer’s eye so that the eyes must move to follow it;
- **Line** can describe edges.
- Line has the potential to suggest movement

A simple way of thinking of a line is to imagine a point that moves...



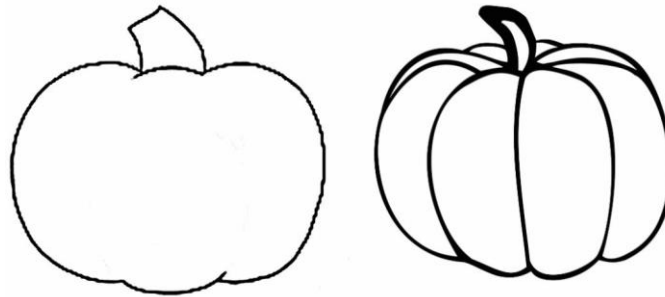
The most common use of line is showing where an object ends. This type of line is called a [contour line](#). Contour lines are most commonly called outlines. Examine the images below that outline the objects.



Line can also create the illusion of form in a drawing, giving it a sense of 3-dimension (3-D). In examining the images above, which one is drawn to give you a sense of 3-D?

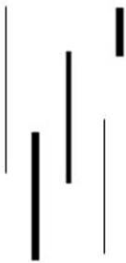
EXERCISE 1: Find an object and draw only the outline (outside) of the object. Can you tell what it is? Show your drawing to someone and have them identify the object. Now take the same object and draw the outline and use line to draw the details of the object. You may also play with drawing lines that make the object look 3-dimensional. (Hint: You may want to buy you an art pad???) And use this for your various drawings. This will show you how you have matured in your art-work over a year or years. It can also be used as part of display or photographed for your 4-H portfolio.

See the example below.

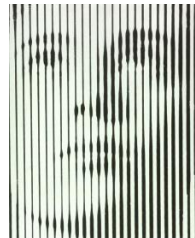


Types of Lines

Vertical lines - lines that move up and down without any slant. Vertical lines portray the feeling of height, strength and dignity. Vertical lines can be thick or thin. Examine the images below. How would you describe the effect of vertical lines on the objects/building.



Parthanon (Athens, Greece)

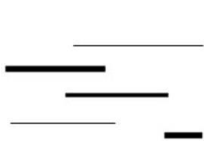


Graphic Design



Fiber Arts Wall Hanging

Horizontal lines - lines that are parallel to the horizon. They imply calmness, quiet and repose. Examine the images below. How would you describe the effect of horizontal lines on the objects/building.



Pottery



Waiting room

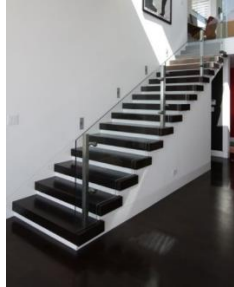
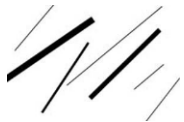


Planters



3-D Art

Diagonal lines - lines that slant. These lines give a sense of action or movement. Do you see movement in the objects below? Diagonal lines can be at various degrees from almost horizontal to almost vertical. Do the diagonal lines in the objects below make your eye follow the lines from one part of the object to another?



Stairs



Graphic Design



Thornycrown Chapel

Zigzag lines - lines made from a combination of diagonal lines. Zigzag lines are exciting, gives a feeling of action, and makes your eye more to different parts of the object. Look around and/or think of other objects that have zigzag designs.



Handmade Quilt



Handmade Table Runner



Origami Planter Covers

Curved lines - Lines that change direction gradually. Curved lines are graceful and can be delicate, gently leading your eye around all parts of the object. Examine these objects and describe the effect of the curved lines (shows grace, comfort, is delicate...).



Handmade Basket



Arne Jacobsen Egg Chair



Quillery Art



Felt Bear

EXERCISE 2: View the objects below and determine the dominant line (the type of line that stands out most) choosing from Vertical, Horizontal, Diagonal, Zigzag, Curved.

Note: After you have chosen your answer, explain to someone why you picked this as the dominant line. Your answer may differ from someone else's depending on how you see the object.



1. Painting: Water Lilies (by Monet)



2. Windsor Chair



3. Wall Art

Dominant Line: _____



4. Sculpture Ballet Dancer
(by Degas)



5. Crocheted Afghan



6. Basket made of paper

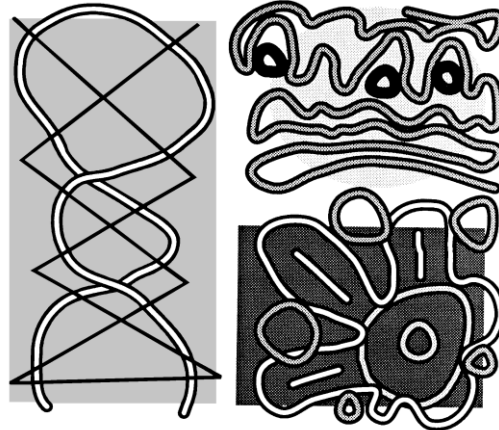
Dominant Line: _____

EXERCISE 3: Line Collage

Creating a Collage is one way of making designs out of scraps and small pieces of material. Why not make a collage out of pieces of yarn or string?

What you need:

- a piece of board (cardboard, plywood, fiberboard, cardstock, etc.)
- string, yarn, or other linear materials (Example: scraps of fabric cut in strips)
- white glue or other type glue
- scissors



What to do:

1. Find or cut a board the size and shape you want or use card stock.
2. Decide what kind of design to make on it with lines. Do you want to have a center of interest? If you do, how can you use lines to guide people's eyes to it? Or, would you rather make a regular pattern by repeating the same motif over and over? Maybe you want to make several small designs. If so, how will you arrange them on the space of your board? Or, you may want one big design—or one small design with lots of negative space around it. If you're keeping a Design Idea Book, you may have some good ideas ready to use. You might want to sketch the main lines of your design on the board with a pencil.
3. Glue long and short pieces of yarn, string, or cord onto the board to make your design. Spread glue on one small area at a time so it won't dry out while you press the string into place. You may want to use only one kind of linear material—or many different kinds. Use your imagination and whatever you can find: old shoelaces, fishing line or leaders, rubber bands, thread—anything that can be cut into flexible lengths of line.
4. Let the glue dry completely. Run your hand across your collage and notice the texture. If you like your design, you may want to paint it with shellac or clear varnish to make it more permanent. You can use string collage to decorate notebooks and book covers, lampshades, wastebaskets, picture frames, and many other things. Experiment with different materials and different kinds of design.

Suggested answers for Exercise 2:

1. Curved, 2. Diagonal; 3. Curved and diagonal; 4. Overall Vertical (legs diagonal); 5. Zigzag; 6. Curved

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Resources:

<https://thevirtualinstructor.com/line.html>

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