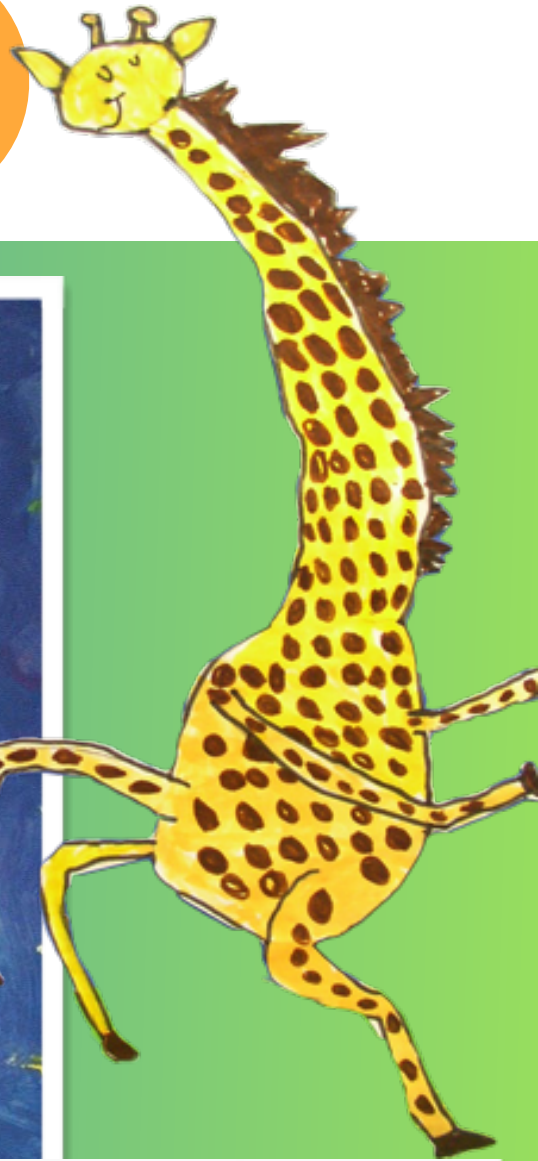
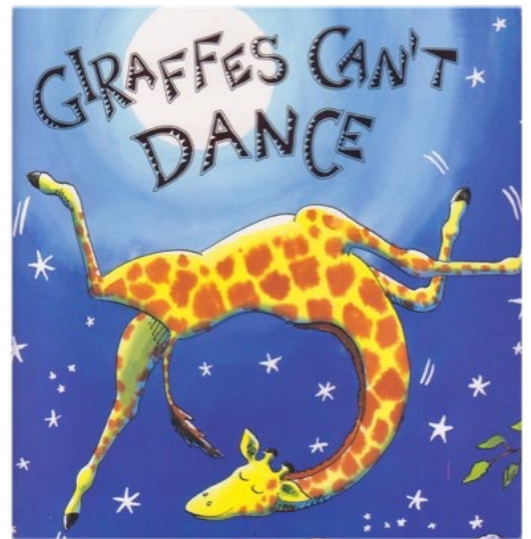


# DEEP SPACE SPARKLE

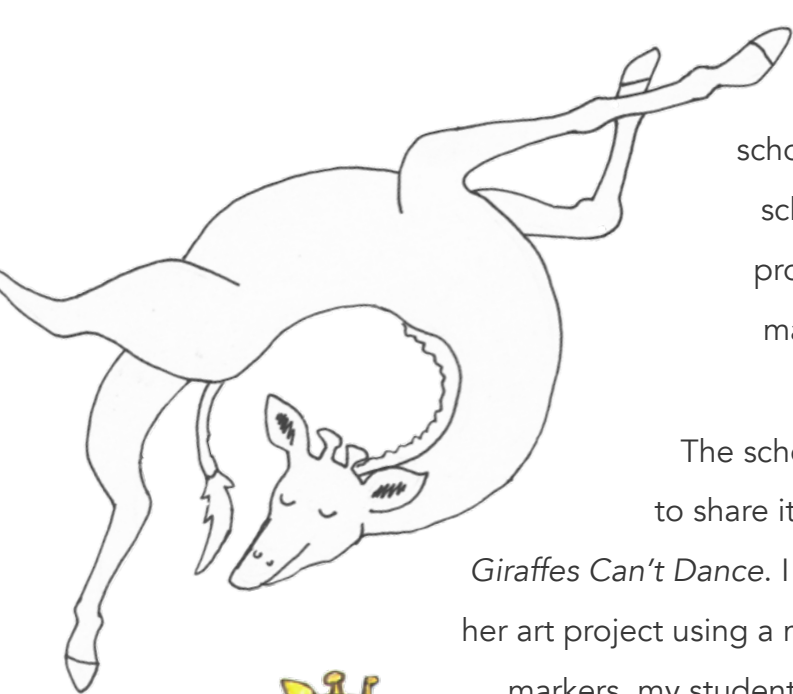
GRADES  
1-4



LESSON PLAN *plus*  
DRAWING VIDEO



# GIRAFFES CAN'T DANCE



Back before the days of art blogs, a few schools showcased their art on school websites. One school, May-Whitney, had an amazing gallery of art projects. I couldn't believe what the art teacher had managed to do with her students. She was such an inspiration.

The school art link is nowhere to be found so I am unable to share it. But one lesson she did was based on the book, *Giraffes Can't Dance*. I bought the book and created my own version of her art project using a mixed-media approach. Instead of oil pastels and markers, my students created a hazy moonlit sky with paint and drew their giraffes on a separate piece of paper.

This technique of painting the background and drawing the subject on a separate piece of paper worked well with my students. It's a technique I've used many times over the last twelve years.

I hope you enjoy this full version lesson plan. If you don't have access to the book, here is a link to a <https://youtu.be/kVzblgpqQnk> that you can play for your students.

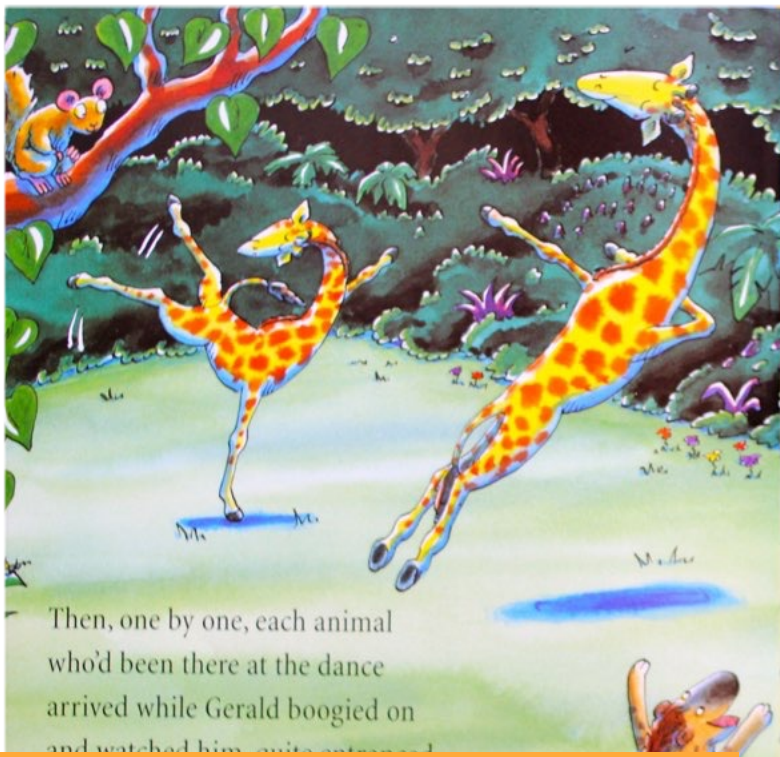
You can download the drawing video directly from the zip file, or play through Vimeo. Here is the link:

**[Giraffes Can't Dance Video on Vimeo](https://vimeo.com/129470490)**  
**<https://vimeo.com/129470490>**  
**PASSWORD: SPARKLE**

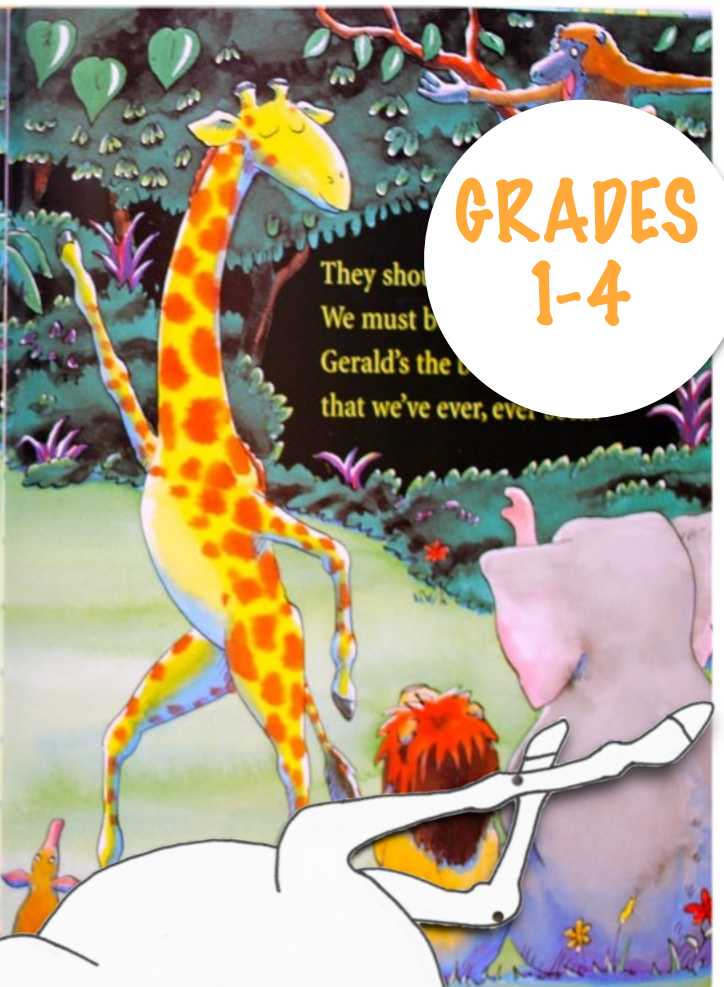


Enjoy the lesson!  
Patty

Curious what art supplies I use?  
Click [HERE](#) to see my list of favorites.



Then, one by one, each animal who'd been there at the dance arrived while Gerald boogied on and watched him, quite entranced

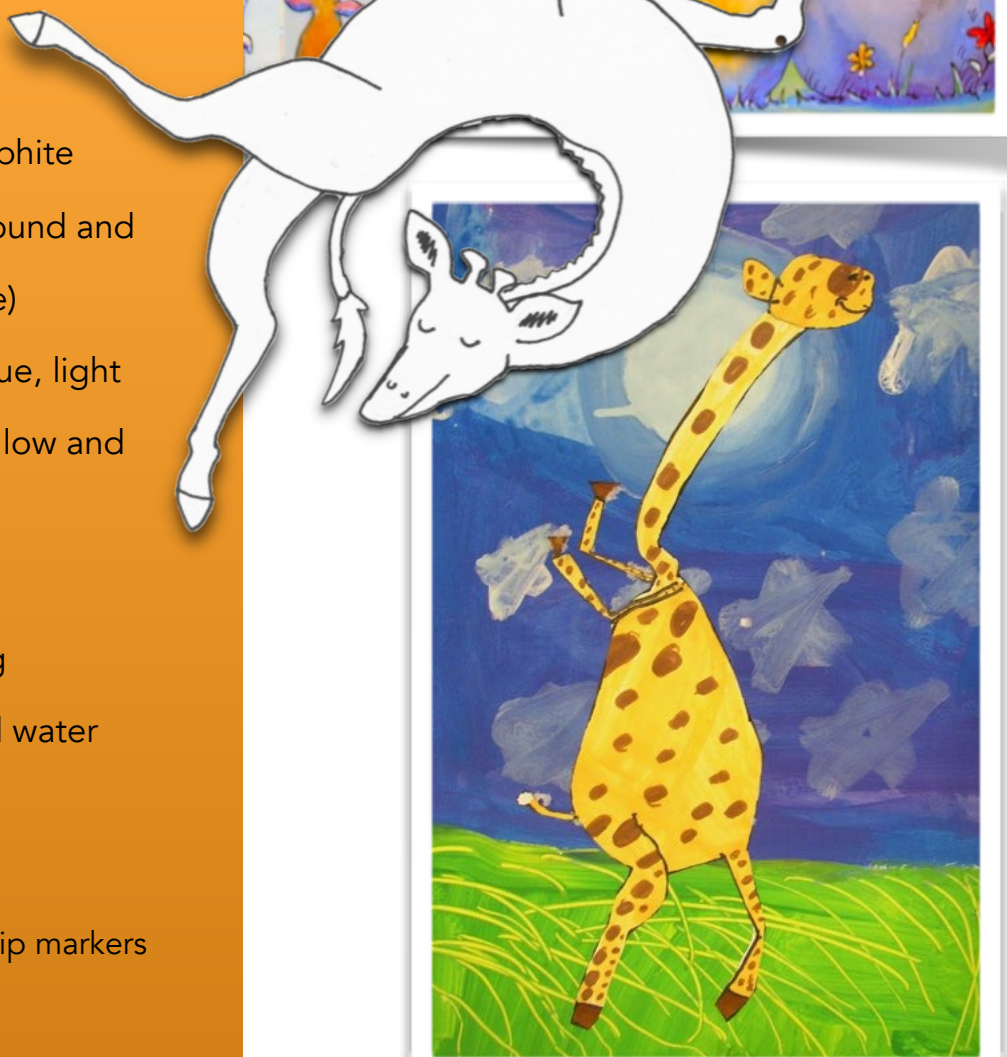


GRADES  
1-4

They show  
We must be  
Gerald's the  
that we've ever, ever

## HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- ▶ 2 sheets of 12" x 18" sulphite paper (white for the background and yellow/orange for the giraffe)
- ▶ Liquid tempera paint (blue, light blue (optional) white, yellow and green)
- ▶ Plastic cup & pencil
- ▶ Black marker for drawing
- ▶ Medium paint brush and water
- ▶ White glue
- ▶ Scissors
- ▶ Orange and brown broad tip markers



# TIMING THE LESSONS



You'll need about three, 40-minute classes to complete this project. If you don't have that much time with the students, you can paint the background and draw the giraffe but leave the cutting part up to you or a parent helper.

## **First Day**

9:00-9:05 Children settle onto the carpet in front of me. I sit in a chair with book in hand and visuals of the art project beside me on the white board.

9:05-9:15 Read the book.

9:15-9:20 I quickly demonstrate how to draw the dancing giraffe on the white board. I do this so the kids know what to expect.

9:20-9:35 Children sit at their tables, pick up a marker and show me they are ready. Using the guided drawing technique, children draw their giraffe. If they make a mistake, they move on until the end of the lesson. Then, if they like, they can turn over the paper and draw again.

9:35-9:40 Write names on paper, place caps on markers, tuck in chairs and dismiss tables.

## **Second Day**

9:00 -9:05 Children sit in chairs. Each table has a white piece of paper, paint, pencil, cup and brushes.

9:05-9:15 I demonstrate how to draw the moon and paint the background.

9:15-9:35 Children paint their background. If they finish, I hand their giraffe's back and they color in the spots.

9:35-9:40 Clean-up

## **Third Day**

Color spots on giraffe, Cut out giraffe, glue to background.

# GUIDED DRAWING TIPS



You can choose to give each child a copy of the drawing handout or you can do a guided drawing. Before your guided drawing, watch the video and practice drawing the giraffe. When you are ready to teach the guided drawing, try this script:

*"We are going to draw a Gerald the Giraffe together. Use your marker and yellow paper. If you draw a line that you don't like, keep going. After we complete the drawing and you aren't happy with it, you can turn the paper over and draw the giraffe again. Is that okay with everyone?"*

*I want you to watch and listen to instruction. Try not to have conversation with your neighbor until after the drawing is finished.*

*When my cap is off my marker, it's my turn to draw and your turn to watch. When I place the cap on my marker, it's your turn.*

*Are you ready?"*



1  
Draw a sideways "U"  
Add 2 horns and 1 ear



2  
Add facial features  
Draw a long, sloped neck  
& oval body



3  
Draw side leg starting  
inside the lower belly. Draw a  
curved line for the top leg  
and two straight lines for  
the bottom leg. Add a hoof.

4

Add back leg and  
two "arms".  
Add a tail. Make  
it move!



## GIRAFFES CANT DANCE

## Drawing Guide

5

Erase lines that you don't need. To change the drawing, change the position of the legs and arms so the giraffe can show off his dance moves.

DEEP SPACE SPARKLE

# PAINTING THE BACKGROUND

1

2

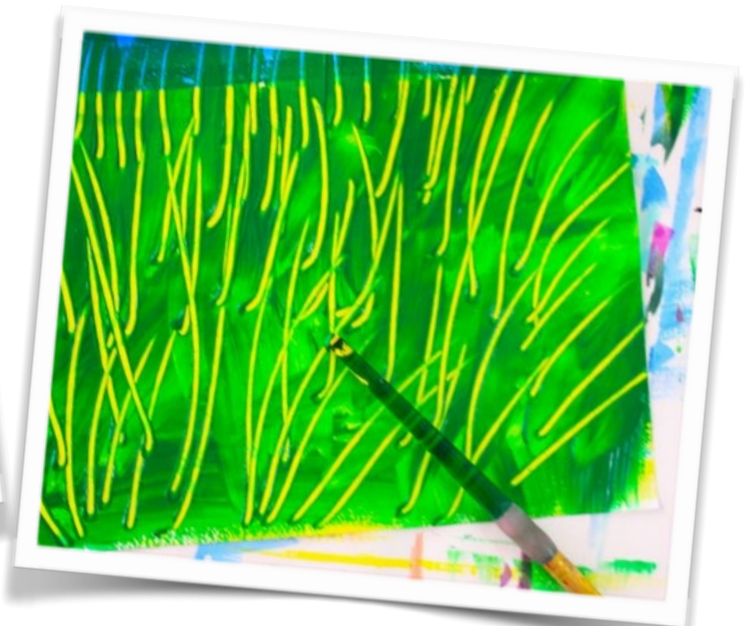
3

4

5



1. Trace a cup or container with a pencil for the moon. Fill with WHITE paint.
2. Paint around the white moon with LIGHT BLUE then BLUE paint, blending with the white to create a glow.
3. Draw a HORIZON line with the blue paint. Fill space above blue line with blue sky. Fill below line with YELLOW paint.
4. Paint over yellow paint with GREEN paint and immediately scratch lines or blades of grass using the back end of the brush.



# ASSEMBLING



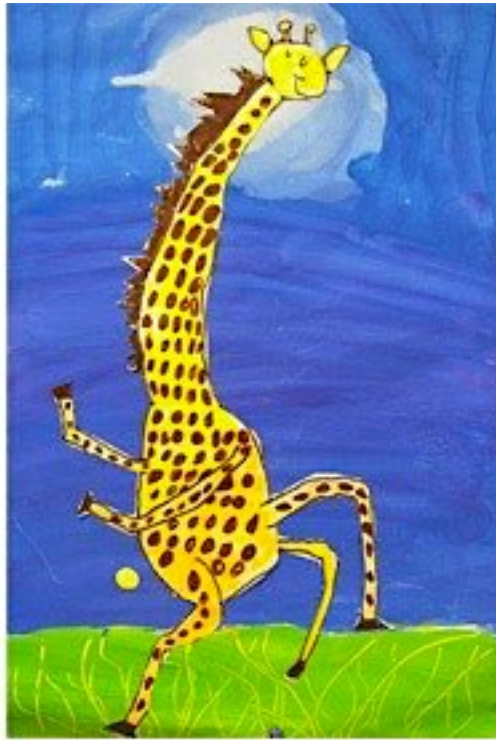
Once the kids draw the giraffe and figure out where to place the arms and legs, you might notice that a few kids have more than 4 legs. This is pretty typical so you can either say nothing at all or suggest they cut off the extra appendage.

Bring out the colored markers and encourage the kids to color in the spots. When the spots are colored, cut out the giraffe. This can take a while with younger kids but it's great practice.

Glue giraffe onto dry painted background.

A nice touch that I always wanted to try but never had the time, was to add droplets of glue to the sky and sprinkle fine glitter over the glue. This would make a lovely, sparkly sky, don't you think?





# GIRAFFES CAN'T DANCE

GRADE 1

# Artist Statement

Your name

WHAT IS THE NAME OF YOUR ARTWORK?

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HOW DID YOU CREATE YOUR ARTWORK?

(What tools, supplies and techniques did you use?)

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WHAT DOES THIS PIECE OF ART MEAN TO YOU?

(You can use "I" statements and talk about your inspiration and what creating this piece of art means to you)

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Inspiring children one color at a time

*Thank you for purchasing a  
Deep Space Sparkle Art Lesson.*

*I would love to see how you used this lesson in your classroom or at home. Feel  
free to share your kids art with the DSS community:*



@deepspaceparkle



[Kid's Art Gallery](#)



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*Questions?*

Contact Patty @ [patty.palmer@deepspaceparkle.com](mailto:patty.palmer@deepspaceparkle.com)