

The difference between “Coloring” and “Painting” with colored pencils?

As an art teacher, I always asked the Kindergarten children to “color” their drawing very carefully, trying to stay inside the lines, filling in all of the spaces with their crayons. That is how we adults color as well!! GOOD JOB!! Your coloring books are great exercises on how to color neatly and smoothly with 1 crayon at a time filling in all the spaces of the shapes in the coloring books.

BUT As my art students grew older and began to learn how to “Paint” a painting, either with watercolors, acrylic or oil paints, the techniques were a little different. Using a paint brush, students and adults now “Layer” on several colors of paint and mixing to blend several layers of colors of paint to get the “color” needed. Many colors “blended together” is how a painter achieves more depth of space in their colored image, more tints or tones of a color allowing light to create new colors from this layered effect.

- A Coloring Book only requires 1 color to fill in a shape.
- A Painter requires layers and layers of color, mixed together.
- A Colored Pencil “Painter” follows the painting technique using many colors layered.

PAINTING vs. COLORING

“Coloring” is the activity we use to push a crayon, pencil tool, back and forth and over and over to fill in an area. “Coloring” is an *EXERCISE* of motion with our hands using an art tool.

“Painting” is activity we use to add more than one color on top of each other, mixing these layers together to make a new blended color. “Painting” is the application to add many colors together.

Since we are “Colored Pencil Painters” — it defines the correct use of how to apply many colored pencils, layering and layering to build up several colors to create a more solid depth of coloration. This is how painting artist creates their depth of colors. This is how we become an **ARTIST!!**

A Coloring Book “coloring activity” uses 1 color, with no layering that leaves the shape looking “flat””Painting” or adding several colors together will create a richer, artistic color to the finished painting.

*An Artist **paints** many colors together to create all the color values seen in the object”*