



## Artist & Composer Study

This session's featured artist is Wassily Kandinsky. We've included four art selections for your kids and teens to use for picture study. They are:

- *Blue Mountain*
- *Squares with Concentric Circles*
- *Composition VII*
- *Circles in a Circle*

Our featured composer is Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. We've included four of his pieces (with links to each) to listen to. They are from:

- Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy
- Swan Lake
- The Sleeping Beauty
- Romeo and Juliet

Artist & Composer Study



# Wassily Kandinsky

December 4, 1866 – December 13, 1944

Wassily Kandinsky (pronunciation) is one of the most influential artists of the early 20th century. He is credited as being the pioneer of abstract art, and his work heavily influenced the Expressionist movement.

Kandinsky was born on December 4, 1866, in Moscow, Russia. His father was a tea merchant, and his mother came from a noble family. Kandinsky spent his childhood in Odessa and graduated from school in 1885. He then studied law and economics at the University of Moscow.

However, Kandinsky's true passion was art, and he began taking private painting lessons in 1892. He also started to frequent art exhibitions and was

particularly drawn to the work of French Impressionists, such as Claude Monet and Pierre-Auguste Renoir. In 1896, Kandinsky decided to abandon his promising career in law and economics and instead enrolled at the Munich Academy of Fine Arts.

Kandinsky believed that art should be expressive and accessible to everyone, not just those with formal training in art history or appreciation. He once said, "Color is a power which directly influences the soul. Color is the keyboard, the eyes are the hammers, the soul is the piano with many strings. The artist is the hand that plays, touching one key or another, to cause vibrations in the soul."

One of Kandinsky's most famous paintings is *Concentric Circles*, which features a series of expanding and contracting circles in different colors. The painting is meant to evoke a sense of movement, and the use of color is intended to create an emotional response in the viewer.

During the later years of his life, he traveled throughout Europe and parts of Africa. He spent over a decade in Germany, teaching at an art school until World War II broke out and the Nazis closed it down. Kandinsky then traveled to France, where he settled and eventually became a French citizen.

Kandinsky died in 1944, but his work continues to be highly influential in the world of art today. His unique approach to color and form paved the way for a new generation of artists to explore Expressionism and abstract art.

# Artist Study

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

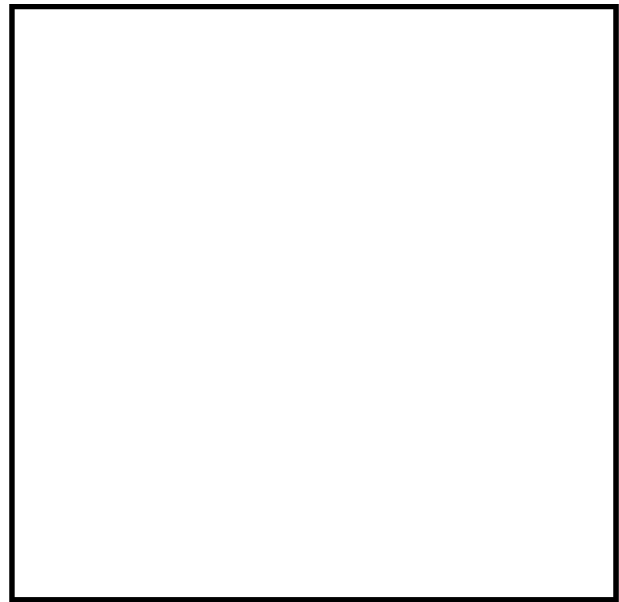
**Artist Fun Facts:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Art Mediums Used:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Famous Artworks:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Further Study:**

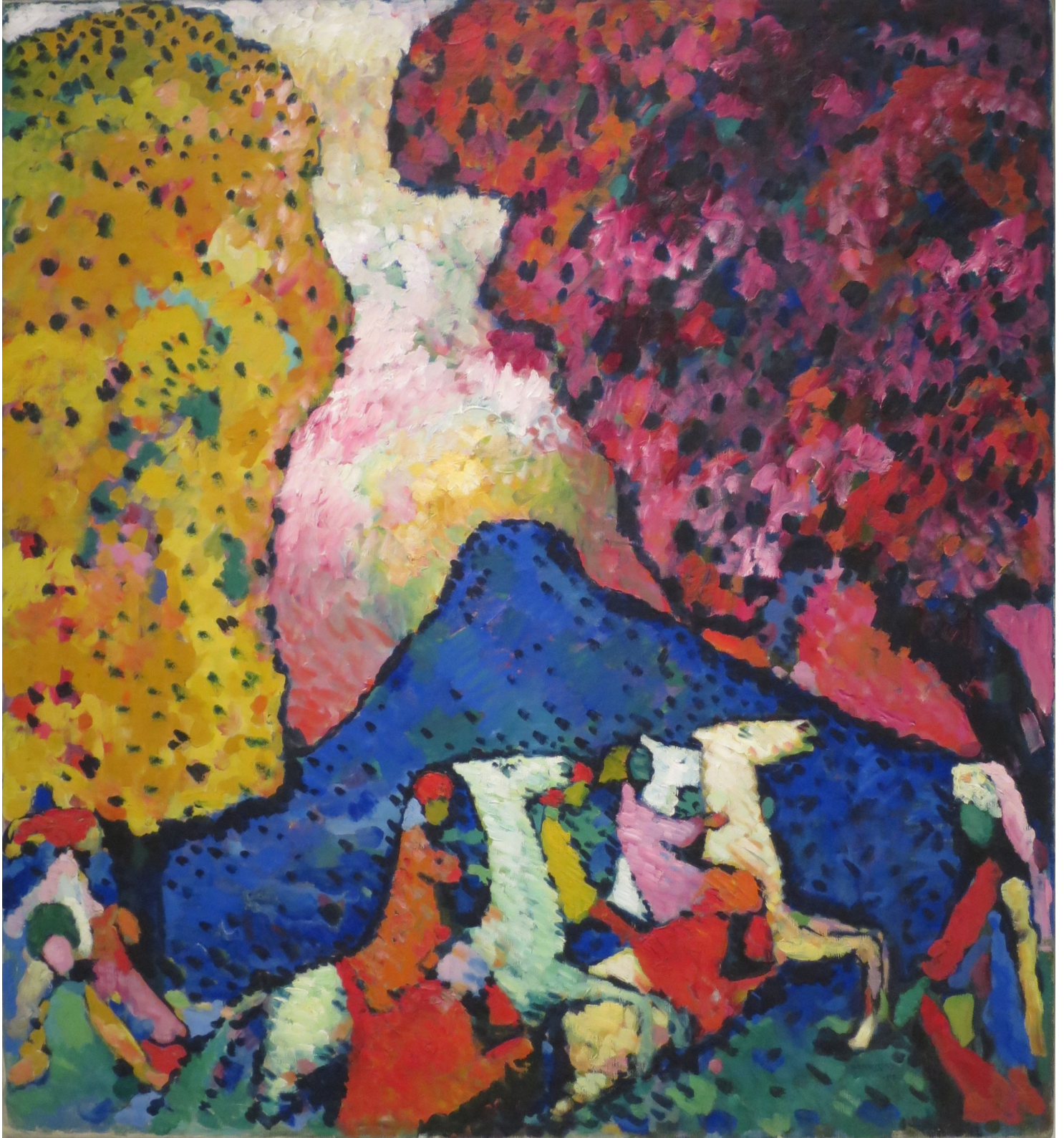
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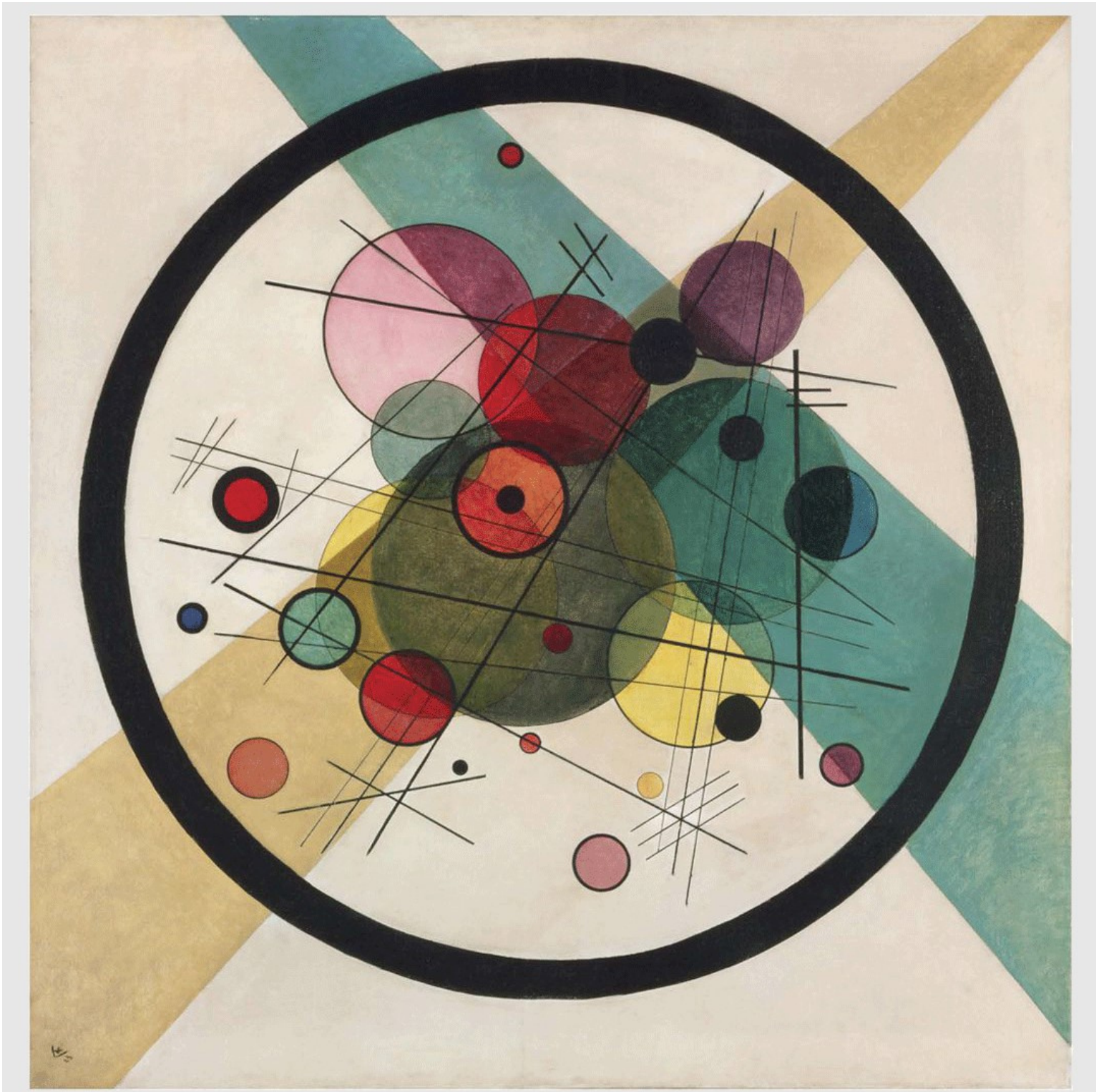
*Blue Mountain, 1908-1909*



*Squares with Concentric Circles, 1913*



Composition VII, 1913



*Circles in a Circle, 1923*

# Picture Study

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Created: \_\_\_\_\_

Art Mediums Used: \_\_\_\_\_

Further Study: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Use the box to draw a picture inspired by this artwork.**

