Josef Albers often painted rectangles: long rectangles, short rectangles, rectangles within rectangles—in many different color combinations. He discovered that he could change the mood of a painting by changing the colors he used. Some paintings felt loud, others felt quiet. Some felt happy, others felt sad. Albers also noticed that colors looked different depending on which color they were next to.

Look Closely
Look at these two works of art by Josef Albers.

• How are they similar?
• How are they different?
• How does the first one make you feel?
• How does the second one make you feel?
Make Connections

Albers said he was inspired by the colors and shapes he saw around him every day, especially the shapes of buildings.

What shapes and colors do you see every day?

Choose one object that you see every day.

What simple shape would you use to represent that object?

What colors would you use?

Try This

Think about a feeling that you want to express. Color the squares in the template below with the colors that you think best express that feeling.