

# Mini Art Lesson: *Platano Pride* by Miguel Luciano

Puerto Rican-born Miguel Luciano is a multimedia artist whose work emphasizes elements of popular culture and history through a social justice lens. In *Platano Pride* (2006), he reclaims the word *platano*, which has been used as a derogatory term to identify Puerto Rican and Dominican immigrants in New York City. The title and bold nature of Luciano’s work redefines the label as a marker of rich history and vibrant culture. Celebrate your cultural markers in this lesson designed for kids ages 2–6 and 7 and up.



## FOR AGES 2–6: LET’S PLAY

**Step 1:** Take a picture of your child exactly as they are in the moment. Here’s a photo of our Education Fellow Tayler Millburn! (A)

A



**Step 2:** Have them look at the picture and point out a few things they like about themselves and are proud of. Here, Tayler admires her smile, since it gives a hint to her warmth and compassion for others, as well as her earrings and her hair.

**Step 3:** Now, talk with your child about the concepts of culture, pride, and heritage. Tayler thinks about her hometown of Houston, Texas, her family in the South, and her family ties to Africa.

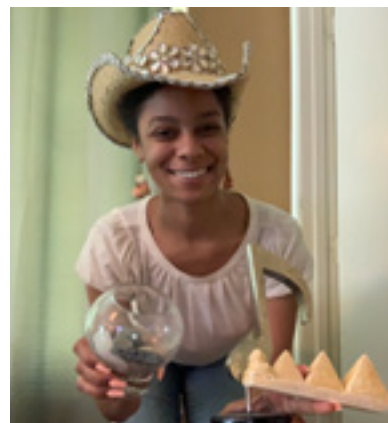
B



**Step 4:** After this conversation, ask your child to grab or put on items they think are important representations of their culture, pride, or heritage. (B)

**Step 5:** Take a new picture of your child with these items included. (C)

C



FOR AGES 7+:  
LET'S CREATE

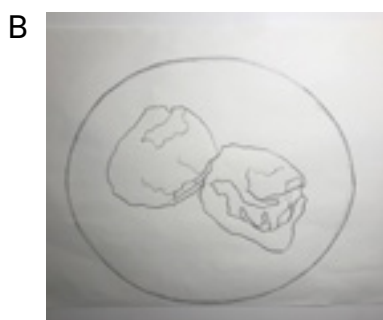
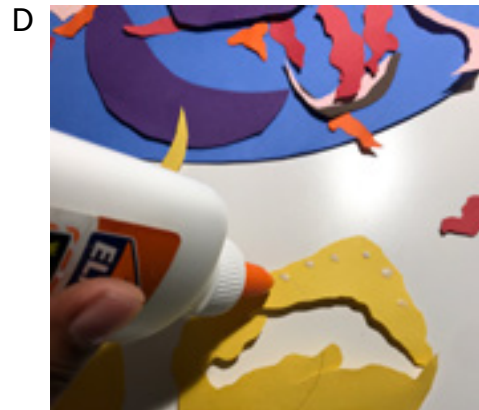
**Step 1:** What kind of food is important to your culture? Here we have bake and saltfish, which is a popular food item in West Indian culture. It's also a common type of street food in Trinidad and Tobago. (A)

**Step 2:** Sketch the food on a piece of paper. Did you notice anything about their shapes you hadn't noticed before? Is your drawing based on the way you remember the food in your mind, or the way you see it in front of you? (B)

**Step 3:** Based on your previous sketch, what shapes did you notice? Are there circles, squares, or triangles? Now, take a sheet of construction paper and carefully cut out the shapes you noticed in your drawing. If you want to get even more creative, you can use pieces of different colored construction paper to represent different shapes! (C)

**Step 4:** Next, dab dots of glue onto the back of your shapes and gently place it on your construction paper to create a collage. Dot! Dot! You don't need a lot! (D)

**Step 5:** What shapes did you use in your collage to represent a food that's important to your culture? What did you learn from this activity? (E)



From top: Miguel Luciano (American, born Puerto Rico, 1972). *Platano Pride*, 2006. Chromogenic photograph. Brooklyn Museum; Gift of the artist, 2008.15. © Miguel Luciano. (Photo: Image courtesy of the artist); For ages 2–6 (Photos: Tayler Millburn, Brooklyn Museum); For ages 7+: (Photos: Amberrose Venus-Gordon, Brooklyn Museum)