Learn with MoMA
Step 1
Look closely

1. Compare and contrast the different ways the artist chose to write the word boom.
2. Read the words aloud and consider how the different colors and lettering might influence how you vocalize the word.
3. Write the word boom on a piece of paper using a different color, style, or size—how would you read it differently?

Step 2
Learn more

Boom, a print by Claes Oldenburg, was included in the illustrated book Stamped Indelibly that was printed in 1967. The book features works by other well-known artists of the time and showcases the playful ways they approached artmaking.

Printed alongside Boom is the image on page 2, which resembles a bass drum pedal.

How does this image relate to the word boom?

See other examples from the illustrated book:
moma.org/collection/works/illustratedbooks/11231

Step 3
Activity: Design a sound word

Materials: any object you can find around you. Pen or pencil and paper.

1. Look around you and choose an object that might make an interesting sound.
2. Experiment with the different sounds the object can make.
3. How can you translate these sounds into words? On a piece of paper, write down one of the sounds that your object makes.
4. Experiment with different ways of writing it. You can try playing around with the size and color of the letters, repetition, and additional marks and images that help illustrate your sound.
5. Optional: You can also use Google Slides or any app or program that can design and customize text.

Step 4
Share!

Share your sound word with a friend, classmate, or family member and have them read it aloud. Or you can email a photo of it to us at MoMA:
schoolprograms@moma.org.


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