Pancake Art
Create edible art in the tastiest form, suitable for breakfast, brunch, a fun snack, or who doesn’t love breakfast for dinner?

Suitable for: All Ages

Materials:
- Pancake Mix
- Eggs
- Milk
- Vegetable Oil
- Whisk
- Mixing Bowls (large, medium, & smaller for each color)
- Measuring Cups
- Squeeze Bottles
- Ziploc Bags (great substitute if you don’t have squeeze bottles)
- Silicone Spatula
- Griddle
- Gel Food Coloring
- Masking Tape
- Permanent Marker

Directions:
1. Draw or do a Google Image search for iconic images or illustrations to turn into pancake art. Simplified drawings with basic shapes work best & are easiest to start with.
2. On printed images or drawings, write colors needed.
3. Follow directions on pancake mix, doubling the batch if needed to give you plenty to divide into the different colors. TIP: add a little extra milk (1/4 cup) to make it a bit runnier if using a very fine-tipped squeeze bottle.
4. Using masking tape & marker, label all the bottles or bags with the colors you will need, using bigger bottles or bags for the colors you will need more of and smaller for those you need less, & finer tips for details.
5. Fill a small mixing bowl with some batter & use the gel food coloring to create the colors and shades you’ll need, mixing as you like.
6. Fill the bottles or bags with the corresponding colors of batter referring to your labels.
7. Turn your griddle or burner on low heat & wipe the griddle surface with vegetable oil on a paper towel.
8. Begin by outlining your first shape to create a containment wall, then fill it in with batter.
9. You can start with central shapes & work your way out or work from one end to another. For the smiley face, you could start with the eyes, outlining & filling in the 2 hearts, then mouth, then the yellow face, outlining then filling in.
10. Make sure that all shapes connect fully so they merge together instead of separating into different pancake puzzle pieces.
11. Let the pancake cook until all the colors are bubbling, then gently use the spatula to flip it over, revealing a cleaner more solid image! Let it cook for another minute or so, all the way through (thinner pancakes are an advantage, here, too.
12. You can use the spatula to trim off edges or blurred borders or a knife once removed from the griddle to clean up your pancake shape.

The Science Behind the Experiment:
Did you know that the bubbles formed in your pancakes are the result of a chemical reaction between a leavening agent such as baking soda & baking powder, & an acidic ingredient such as buttermilk to produce tiny bubbles of carbon dioxide gas? The cohesive properties of the batter will hold your pancake together if you ensure that all borders make full contact between connecting shapes.

Make it Awesome:
As you practice, you can tackle larger & more complex images, create favorite characters, faces, letters, words, & more detailed scenes. Let your imagination run wild & search the internet for inspiration & ideas.

Visit www.theimag.org for more experiments!
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