

3rd Grade: November
Lesson 2: Fish Monoprint
Printmaking

Objectives: To create a monoprint of a fish by using basic printmaking techniques

Technique: Drawing and painting

Set-up: (before lesson starts, docent and aides)

Newspaper to cover desks

Paper towels or napkins

Paint and brush caddy

Water containers

Paper plates with the following colors: red, blue, yellow, white

Pencils

Sketch paper & 1 piece of foam board

9" x 12" white paper for monoprint

Visuals:

Sample artwork

Photographs of fish

Teaching the lesson: (1 hour, total)

Give your aides a brief summary of the lesson

Introduce yourself and your aides

Today you will create a monoprint of a fish. Show sample artwork. A monoprint is a print made by first painting an image on a smooth surface, such as foam, glass or acrylic, and then transferring the painting onto paper. Each monoprint is a unique work of art. Like a potato stamp or a rubber stamp, the print is a reverse image of the original artwork.

Note: This drawing is only a guideline, none of it will show in the end. Students are very anxious to make a perfect fish drawing, but that is not the point of the lesson. Refer again to visual: Pictures of fish.

1. Plan and draw (10-15 min)

- Fish come in a variety of shapes. Show visual: Photographs of fish. Note shapes of tail, fins, body, placement of eye, and markings. Choose a fish that is appealing to you.
- Use lines to create shapes, patterns, and textures. On sketch paper, practice drawing fish: body, fins, tail, markings, and eyes & mouth.
- On foam board, redraw fish. Make sure the image is large and fills the foam board. Press with enough pressure to show the image on the foam.
- Add water designs to surround the fish

Note: If a mistake is made, have students use the opposite side of the foam—do not give students another board.

2: Review Color Mixing (3-5 min)

- Yellow + Red = Orange
- Orange + Blue = Brown, + white = tan
- Yellow + Blue = Green, + a little red = warm green
- White + Blue = Sky Blue
- Red + Blue = Purple, + white = lavender

Note: Since the foam board will be painted, generous application of water-mixed paint is necessary to make the image transfer to the paper. Paint spreads easily when mixed with enough water to thin tempera. Direct students to keep the paints more watery than thick on the foam board.

3: Paint, print & pull (25-30 min)

- Mix and create colors you want to use on your paper plate, using brush in water
- Use paintbrush and dip in water to thin the paint
- Use paintbrush to paint on the foam board, coating entire design in paint
- Consider the color of the fish and paint the surroundings to make the fish stand out and contrast.
- Paint so that the entire board is covered. Reapply paint to any areas missing color on foam board.
- Carefully place construction paper on top of painted fish image, using care to center the paper.
- Press and smooth construction paper on the foam board, smoothing from corner to corner, edge to edge, pressing the paint into the paper.
- Gently lift corner of construction paper; peel off and lift from the foam board.

Note: Allow students to make ONE additional monoprint if time permits.

4: Complete and share (5-10 min)

- Clean any extra paint off foam board (students can take these home)
- Use white crayon to sign name
- Give a title and share

Clean-up: (after the lesson ends, docent and aides)

Close the lesson, clean up the classroom

Thoroughly rinse all paint brushes, store in caddy with bristles upright

Rinse & DRY water containers, store in caddy

Return all lesson materials to bin

Return bin and caddy to the art closet

Ask teacher where to store artwork

Arrange time with teacher to display artwork



Sample artwork



Photographs of fish