
Session type: Ocean Arts Workshop

Duration: 60 minutes

Key Stage: KS3

Main Curriculum Link:

- Art and Design

Additional Curriculum Links:

- Science: Biology – Material cycles and energy
- Science: Biology – Genetics and evolution
- Science: Physics – Waves
- English: Spoken English

Session Overview

Using their sketchbooks students will have noted or drawn a variety of observations from their time spent in the Aquarium, paying particular attention to different colours, shapes, patterns (including repeating patterns) and the changing effects of light in the water. They will then spend a short amount of time planning and preparing a design to put onto their piece of fabric.

By using different textured media students will then create a set of block stencils, using their design to ensure their stencils are detailed and accurate for the animal or feature of their choice. They will then paint their stencils, and push them onto the fabric to complete their design.

Once the students have their finished design, they will have the opportunity to present their work to their peers, explaining the reasoning behind their ideas. The whole class will then be invited to give positive feedback on each other's work in a structured discussion.

National Curriculum Links

Key Stage 3 Art and Design

- Produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences
- To use a range of techniques to record their observations in sketch books, journals and other media as a basis for exploring their ideas
- To use a range of techniques and media, including painting
- To increase their proficiency in the handling of different materials
- To analyse and evaluate their own work, and that of others, in order to strengthen the visual impact or applications of their work

Key Stage 3 Science: Biology – Material cycles and energy

- Photosynthesis
 - The adaptations of leaves for photosynthesis.

Key Stage 3 Science: Biology – Genetics and evolution

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- Inheritance, chromosomes, DNA and genes
 - Differences between species

Key Stage 3 Science: Physics – Waves

- Light waves
 - The transmission of light through materials: absorption, diffuse scattering and specular reflection at a surface
 - Colours and the different frequencies of light, white light and prisms (qualitative only); differential colour effects in absorption and diffuse reflection

Key Stage 3 English: Spoken English

- Giving short speeches and presentations, expressing their own ideas and keeping to the point
- Participating in formal debates and structured discussions, summarising and/or building on what has been said

Learning Outcomes

After this session the groups should be able to:

- Use their imagination and creativity to design their own piece of art
- Use different artistic techniques to produce a finished piece of artwork
- Recognise differences and similarities between species in the marine world
- Identify different habitats, and the different features that they have
- Understand how all animals have adaptations to help them survive in their habitat
- Use art to express their ideas, and present them to an audience
- Take part in a structured discussion to encourage positive feedback about different artistic styles

Pre-Visit Suggestions

- Think about the use of art for a scientific purpose
- Identify the wide variety of colours and patterns in the natural environment
- Look at different colours, shapes and patterns that are used in fashion design. Have a look through local shops and see if there is any inspiration from nature

Post-visit Suggestions

- Create an art show to present your block printed fabric to the rest of your school
- Think about different repeating patterns that can be identified in nature and represent them in sketchbooks using different artistic mediums
- Think about biomimicry; how nature has been used to inspire modern designs. See if you can find any examples from the sea

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