
Session type: Ocean Arts Workshop

Duration: 60 minutes

Key Stage: KS2

Main Curriculum Link:

- Art and Design

Additional Curriculum Links:

- Science: Animals, including humans
- Science: Light
- Science: Living things and their habitats
- Science: Evolution and inheritance
- Science: Working Scientifically
- English Years 1-6: Spoken language

Session Overview

Having journeyed through the World's Oceans during their tour of the Aquarium, students will have seen a number of different marine habitats and the animals that live there. The Shadow Puppets workshop allows the students to investigate a habitat that they haven't yet seen – the deep sea.

Using their scientific investigation skills students will identify the main features of animals living in the abyss, and design their own deep sea animal. Working on mastering their artistic techniques, pupils will draw their animal, concentrating on body shape and outline. This will then be cut out, and using a light source will be used as a shadow puppet.

Upper KS2 –

As an extension of the activity, upper KS2 will progress to think more about the effect of light on different materials, and the formation of shadows. Using our range of craft materials, upper KS2 students will be able to further decorate their animal to create a range of shadow effects.

At the end of this activity all students will have the opportunity to examine each other's work, and to give positive critique. They will also have the chance to show off their shadow puppet; presenting and explaining the reasoning behind their design in front of their peers.

National Curriculum Links

Key Stage 2 Art and Design

- Produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences
- To create sketch books to record their observations and use them to review and revisit ideas
- To improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials

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Key Stage 2 Science: Animals, Including Humans

- Identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food; they get nutrition from what they eat [Y3]
- Identify that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement [Y3]
- Construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey [Y4]

Key Stage 2 Science: Light

- Recognise that they need light in order to see things and that dark is the absence of light [Y3]
- Recognise that shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by an opaque object [Y3]
- Find patterns in the way that the size of shadows change [Y3]
- Use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them [Y6]

Key Stage 2 Science: Living things and their habitats

- Recognise that living things can be grouped a variety of ways [Y4]
- Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms, plants and animals [Y6]
- Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics [Y6]

Key Stage 2 Science: Evolution and Inheritance

- Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution [Y6]

Key Stage 2 Science: Working scientifically

- Planning different types of scientific enquiries to answer questions, including recognising and controlling variables where necessary [Y5/6]

English Years 1-6: Spoken Language

- Listen and respond appropriately to adults and their peers
- Ask relevant questions to extend their understanding and knowledge
- Give well-structured descriptions, explanations and narratives for different purposes, including for expressing feelings
- Maintain attention and participate actively in collaborative conversations, staying on topic and initiating and responding to comments
- Use spoken language to develop understanding through speculating, hypothesising, imagining and exploring ideas

Learning Outcomes

After this session the groups should be able to:

- Use their imagination and creativity to design their own piece of art
- Use drawing as a medium to share their ideas and expand their imagination
- Use a number of different artistic techniques to produce a finished piece of artwork

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- Understand that living things can be grouped according to certain characteristics
 - Living things have particular adaptations that help them survive, and can pass these adaptations on to their offspring
 - Use scientific reasoning to identify key features of animals living within certain habitats
 - Use a light source to understand how shadows are formed, and patterns that can be observed
 - Present their work to an audience, explaining their design ideas
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Pre-Visit Suggestions

- Learn about different habitats and how different groups of animals live within those habitats
- Learn about the adaptations and characteristics of animals that help them to survive
- Investigate how light makes shadows; use different objects in your classroom to see if you can make any animal shapes!

Post-Visit Suggestions

- Write a story that incorporates the shadow puppets as characters; make it into a performance for the rest of the school
- Identify similarities and differences between the students inventions, and talk about how their features may benefit or disadvantage the animals
- Discuss how successful adaptations may lead to evolution; identify other animals that have adapted to new environments
- Talk about the role that humans have on the environment, and any actions the students can undertake to look after their local habitats

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