



RED FISH, BLUE FISH, PAINT A NEW FISH

Explore colors and shapes, while learning the art of Japanese Gyotaku painting.

Big Idea

Gyotaku (gyo = fish, taku = rubbing) was invented in the early 1800s in Japan by fishermen who wanted to record their catch. Japanese fishermen took newsprint, ink and brush out to sea with them. Prints were brought back and displayed in the homes of the fishermen either on walls or in journals to be used as conversation pieces and to relate proud and heroic stories of the catch. Students will explore the shapes they see and the combinations of different colors, while making their own fish print and story.

Standards

IELDS 25.A.ECd Visual Arts: Investigate and participate in activities using visual arts materials.	Students will investigate color and shape, while creating fish prints with visual art materials.
VA:Cr2.1.Ka Through experimentation, build skills in various media and approaches to art-making.	Students will experiment with the Gyotaku technique and different techniques with painting.
IELDS 25.B.ECa Describe or respond to their creative work or the creative work of others	Students will answer questions and discuss their own work, and maybe even the work of others!

Materials

- Rubber Fish
- Newspaper
- Tempera Paint Pallet
- Smocks
- Tempera Paint (few colors that go together)
- Paint Brush for each color
- 8.5 x 14 paper

Setup

Cover tables in newspaper and add different cups and bowls of tempera paint with paint brushes. Clean and dry the rubber fish before each new painting.

Directions

1. Apply Tempera paint to the fish with soft brush. Apply one or more colors gently in all directions. Use a brush for some of the harder-to-define areas, such as the lips.
2. Place the paper over the inked fish. Hold with one hand so it does not move and gently press the paper down over the entire fish making sure you have pressed all parts.
3. Peel back the paper. Start slowly at one end and continue across. Students may need to assist each other with this step.



4. Review the print. If the print has smudges it means either the paper or fish slipped. Blank spots means either there is not enough Tempra Paint or the student did not press hard enough to transfer the ink.
5. Encourage students to add background details and create a story for their fish. Students may add various details, including eyes, underwater features or other decor.

Investigation Questions: Do you think fish breathe under water? What color fish have you seen? How could you make a fish that's a variety of colors? What do you think will happen when you mix these two colors? What shapes do you see? Are there any parts of the fish that are the same as people? How do fish move? Is different or the same as us? What else might be underwater with your fish? What else can you tell me about your fish?

Related Artist: Linda Heath is avid angler, and makes her art from fish caught by herself or her friends in the Gulf of Mexico. <http://lindaheathfishrubs.com/>