

Coral Reef Painting - 3th Grade

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Instructional objectives: Student will create a coral reef painting using watercolors, permanent marker and tissue paper. During the painting process they will learn how to mix and blend colors; and learn how to use various techniques to create texture in watercolor painting.

State goals the lesson meets:

Materials needed:

Student Watercolor Paper

Watercolors

Black Sharpie Fine Line Permanent Marker

Blue, Green, Magenta Spectra Tissue Paper (*bleeding tissue*)

Salt & Spray bottles of water

Pictures of Tropical Fish and Coral Reefs

Instruction Approach (what the teacher does during the lesson)

Week 1 – Students practice drawing a variety of fish shapes on manila paper.

Students also practice drawing fish that are swimming towards the viewer and starfish. When they are satisfied with their work, they redraw their best fish shapes on the student watercolor paper and create their coral reef environment.

Week 2 - Students begin painting each fish with 2 analogous colors from their watercolors sets letting the colors bleed together where they touch. While the colors are wet, the students add a pinch of salt to create scales on the fish. After the fish are completed the students paint their coral reef environment. (*Do not paint the fish eyes! These are done in permanent marker after the painting is completed.*)

Week 3 – Students crumple strips of blue, green and magenta tissue paper and then tear the tissue into pieces small enough to color the background of the painting. The students wet a small section of their background with a brush and place the tissue on top of the wet paper. The tissue is overlapped to fill the white spaces of the painting. More water can be added to flatten the tissue. The tissue is left in place to dry.

Week 4 – Students remove the tissue paper scrapes and outline the fish with Sharpie Fine Line Markers. The markers are also used to create the black center of the fish eyeballs.