



## AFK ArtReach Video: Painting Underwater Environments

Grades 2-3

### Activity:

Paint an **underwater environment** inspired by local species of seaweed and fish. In this video an AFK art teacher shares ideas for creating a **mixed media painting** using layers, colour, and negative space to depict movement. Viewers will learn about the practice of **seeforestation** in this activity that connects to learning in **Arts Education** as well as **Science**.

### Inquiry Questions:

What is seeforestation and how can it benefit our natural environment?

How can we use layering, negative space, and colour, to depict movement in a painting of a fish in an underwater environment?

### Big Ideas:

Inquiry through the arts creates opportunities for risk taking. **(Arts Education)**

Creative experiences involve an interplay between exploration, inquiry, and purposeful choice.

**(Arts Education)**

Living things are diverse, can be grouped, and interact in their ecosystems. **(Science)**

### Pre-Class Preparation:

The teacher will need to prepare the following materials prior to the activity:

- Computer and projector to display video and images in class
- 1 sheet of 8" x 8" thick white paper per student (Opus Opaque Accent Vellum would work well for this project and is an affordable option)
- Pencil
- Vinyl eraser
- Images of fish and seaweed (see PDF linked below video)
- Class set of fish tracers (contact AFK to borrow tracers)
- Watercolour sets
- Watercolour brushes
- Water pots
- Paper towel
- Scissors
- Oil pastels in several warm colours (yellow, orange, red, pink, peach) and several shades of green
- Optional: scissors
- Optional: Class set of circle tracers (20cm in diameter)

## First Peoples Principles of Learning

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- Learning ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors
- Learning involves generational roles and responsibilities

## Curricular Competencies: What students will DO

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**Arts Education:** Students will be able to use the following creative process(es)...

- Create a painting of underwater environments using ideas inspired by imagination, observation, and purposeful play
- Observe how artists use processes, materials, movements, technologies, tools and techniques
- Connect knowledge and skills from other areas of learning in planning, creating, and interpreting works of art

**Science:** Using the skills of thinking critically, solving problems, and making ethical decisions, students will be able to...

- Demonstrate curiosity and a sense of wonder about the world
- Identify some simple environmental implications of their and others' actions

## Concepts and Content: What students will KNOW

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**Students will know the following concepts and content:**

- Elements and principles of art and design including space and colour (**Arts Education, Grades 2-3**)
- Students will know and make use of mixed media painting strategies including emphasis, contrast, and movement (**Arts Education, Grades 2-3**)
- Students will know and make use of the processes, materials, and techniques for painting from observations about the effects of layering shapes and colour (**Arts Education, Grades 2-3**)
- Students will identify biodiversity in the local environment (**Science, Grade 2-3**)

## Core Competencies (suggested questions for reflection)

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- **COMMUNICATION:** Describe the artistic strategies and elements that you used in your painting to show movement.
- **THINKING:** How can seaforestation benefit the natural environment?
- **PERSONAL AND SOCIAL:** What differences and similarities did you observe between your underwater environment and your classmates' underwater environments? What can you learn from the placement and colour choices your classmates made in creating their paintings?

## Suggested Descriptive Feedback

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- Nora contributes her ideas and observations about her peers' art and asks thoughtful questions.
- Nora uses processes and tools required for creating layered mixed media paintings that portray movement.
- Nora has created an original painting of an underwater environment using ideas inspired by imagination and the natural world.