

Koi Pond

(art + science, art + social studies)

Colorful, graceful koi dart between the ripples of a watercolor pond or hide under the shadow of a water lily. This interactive torn-paper collage creates pockets for watercolor fish to swim in and may be linked to the study of pond life (science) and Japanese culture.

Grade Levels 2-5

Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

Process

1. Cut watercolor paper in half. On one half, use white crayons to make wavy lines for ripples. Paint with a selection of "pond" colors: greens, blues, violets.
2. While the first sheet dries, paint koi on the second sheet. Have a fish-shaped template to trace or pre-cut fish shapes. Study koi colors and patterns by visiting a pond or viewing photos. Create scales and fins with red and orange crayons. Paint orange, red and black markings with watercolor. Each pond should have at least three koi to put in it. Allow to dry and cut out with scissors.
3. Tear the first sheet into six horizontal strips. As paper tears, it will create a white, rough edge that will look like waves on the pond. Overlap strips about 1/4" and glue together on the ends only, leaving the middle sections unglued to form pockets.
4. While glue dries, create water lilies from torn, crumpled tissue paper circles. Glue to an oval shape for a leaf. Tear green tissue into strips to make tall grass to line the pond.
5. Tear the corners of the "water" to make a natural pond shape. Apply glue to the back of the pond on the outside edges only and press onto the green construction paper. Glue water lilies to the pond and tall grass in front. Stock the pockets of the pond with fish and teach them to dive to the bottom.



Materials

Blick Student Watercolor Paper, 15" x 22" (10028-2158), one sheet per student

Crayola® Educational Watercolors, (00309-1009), one 16-color set per student

Blick Scholastic Camel Hair brush, size 6 (05867-1006), one per student

Snippy Scissors (57040-2005) one per student

Crayola® Crayons, (20103-1008), one 16-color set per student

Blick Tissue Paper, assorted colors (11308-1007), share one package across classroom

Blick Glue Stick (23872-1030), one per student

Blick Construction Paper, green 12" x 18" sheet (11409-7096), need one sheet per student

National Standards

Content Standard #4 — Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures

K-4 Students identify specific works of art as belonging to particular cultures, times and places

5-8 Students know and compare the characteristics of artworks in various eras and cultures

Content Standard #6 — Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines

K-4 Students identify connections between the visual arts and other disciplines in the curriculum

5-8 Students describe ways in which the principles and subject matter of other disciplines taught in the school are interrelated with the visual arts