

Tofu Ling and the Carp Banner Art Activities

More Fun With Fish! Fish! Fish!



Fish Prints:

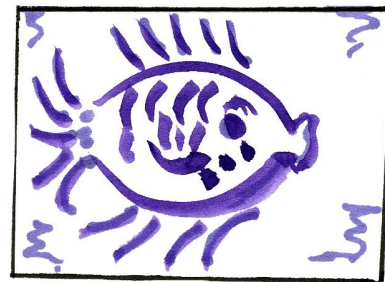
There is a form of art in which fish are painted, or rolled with ink. The fish is then laid onto paper and a print is made of its beautiful textures and designs. If you would like to try this activity, perhaps you can explore the possibilities. As an alternative, these are some variations of fish prints that can provide a variety of results and skill levels. Before making the printing projects, discuss the assets of fish that give them beautiful artistic qualities. These qualities can be seen in their scales, fins, gills, design, vivid colors, textures, shapes of design and fish. The world of fish holds as much beauty and ornamentation, as does the species of birds. Life under the sea transports us into a magical world of slow motion beauty and awe. Display and discuss photos of exotic salt-water fish for motivation.

The base for all prints will be a piece of cardboard or a sterilized styrofoam meat tray. The size of the block is determined by the size of the project to be created. Block prints can be repeated on one paper to create multiple images. Keep this in mind, when planning the original size of the cardboard. When your block front is completed and dry, handles can be made on the back of the block for ease in printing. Glue or tape two small squares of sponge, or two plastic soda bottle caps on each end of the back of the cardboard. Allow to dry. Turn over. Sterilized styrofoam meat trays make excellent paint or ink trays.

- Printmaking is not an exact art form. It is full of surprises and happy mistakes. The surprise is the fun element!
- Experiment with making single prints, centered on various sizes of paper. Repeated designs can be made by thinking ahead to do a checkerboard design. Use one color first to fill every other space. Wipe off block; then apply second color prints in empty spaces.
- Create random artistic designs by overlapping block prints on one sheet of paper. These can be angled symmetrically or randomly.
- Create stationary, note cards, bookmarks, book covers, etc. The possibilities are endless.
- A mural can be created by attaching many fish to a background.

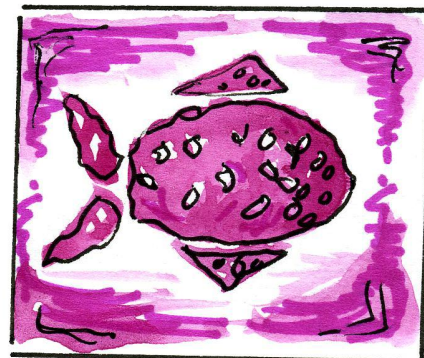
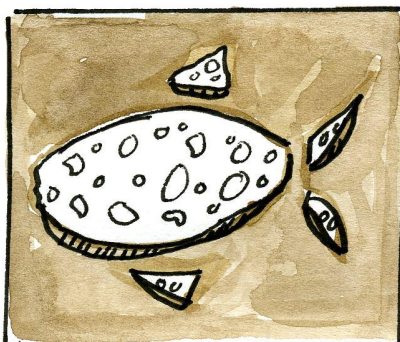
Glue Prints:

Lightly draw the outline of a fish on the cardboard block. Using a school glue bottle trace the outline with white glue. Add eye, fins, dots, stripes etc. Leave space between glue lines. Allow to dry thoroughly. When dry, roll cardboard with school printing ink and brayer if available. Acrylic paint, craft paint or tempera can also be used. If a brayer is not available, the paint can be painted on lightly with a large brush, trying to keep paint on the raised glue surfaces. Pick up block by the edges and turn over onto paper. Rub gently on cardboard surface. Lift block off by handles. If there is excess ink remaining, block can be used again before adding more paint to produce a lighter, more airy print.



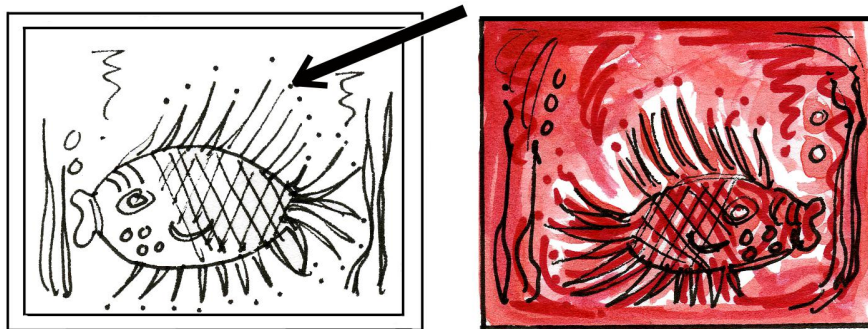
Sponge Prints:

This print works well for younger children or those with special needs. Cut pieces of sponge into basic shapes: ovals, triangles. Glue shapes onto cardboard block. Allow to dry. Follow basic printing process as above. (School craft corrugated paper or sticky back styrafoam paper also works as a great substitute for sponges).



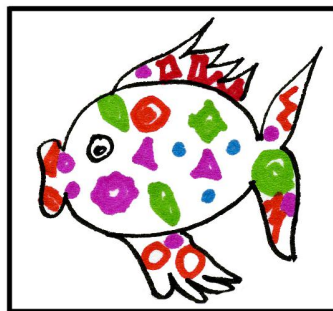
Indented Line Prints:

A clean, dry meat tray or 'sticky back' styrafoam paper (available through arts and crafts catalogues) will make our printing block. Turn the meat tray up side down. Using a wooden stylist or ball point pen, draw a fish into the styrafoam surface, creating indented lines. Since we are working with lines, more detail can be added to this type of printing block by adding waves, bubbles, shells, plants, more fish, etc. Lightly roll or paint the entire surface. Lift block, turn over and gently rub- or place paper on top of inked block and gently rub. Modeling clay can also be used for the block, by rolling it out into a slab; then lightly drawing the design into the clay. Leave the clay in place and press paper onto inked clay.



Found Object Prints:

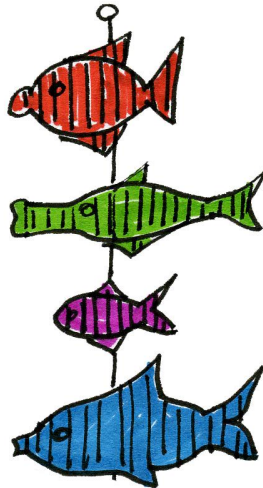
We will use the sterilized meat trays as ink trays. Draw the shape of a fish on a large piece of paper. Collect a variety of found objects to be used as printing blocks. This might include: spools, bottle caps, nuts and bolts, corks, pieces of sponge, etc. The children can have fun finding the objects. Dip the objects into the ink or paint and press onto the paper inside of the fish shape. Fish can be cut out later and mounted in 'schools' on mural paper, or overlapped in interesting designs.



Note: The provided print making activities address the following: eye hand coordination, motor control and planning, sequencing and number concepts, figure- ground discrimination, pattern recognition, form discrimination, size discrimination, size discrimination, parts to whole relationships, reversals and tactile kinesthetic awareness. The following visual art concepts are addressed: shape, form, texture, color, line, overlap, process and result, and last but not least, creativity.

Additional Fish Activities:

Cut double fish shapes from brightly colored corrugated paper, or decorate paper fish shapes with markers. Place fish in a row on a table, leaving space between fish. Tape string or ribbon to back of fish from top to bottom, leaving extra string at top. Glue second fish to match first fish; creating a fish sandwich. Hang to make a mobile.



Cut designed fish from paper, corrugated paper, or oak tag. Tape to straws. Use fish to create a play about fish-- or use the fish to dramatize the journey of the Koi in *Tofu and the Carp Banner*.

