

A water-themed mural

The goal of this activity is to provoke thought on the issue of water by creating a collective work of art made from recovered materials and objects. It is meant for 2nd cycle elementary school students and requires 200 minutes or more to complete.



Material (fig. 1)

- Scissors
- White glue and glue sticks
- Stiff pieces of cardboard (approximately 20×20 cm each, 1 per student) taken from recovered boxes
- Various objects or materials associated with water, e.g. shells, aquarium rocks, sandpaper, sand, fishing thread, etc.
- Assorted magazines and scraps of paper
- White, blue and green acrylic glue, pots and paintbrushes

Process

1. Ask students if they know the various types of watercourses that exist and what their differences are (<http://www.techno-science.net/?onglet=glossaire&definition=1142>). What can be found in these waters and what do they provide us with (food, leisure activities, etc.)? Ask students to bring from home small objects and materials related to water. Explain to them that these things will be used for making a water-themed mural. This dialogue should last about 40 minutes.
2. Distribute 1 piece of stiff cardboard to each student. This will serve as a base for their creative effort. Start by hiding the background with paint or use a stick of glue (**fig. 2 and fig. 3**) to paste on scraps of cardboard, sandpaper or pages from a magazine boasting colours that bring water to mind or with textures/designs that are water-related (soap bubbles, waves, raindrops, etc.). Afterwards, affix desired objects on top of the background using white glue (**fig. 4**). Each finished 20×20 cm piece should be a more or less abstract universe revolving around water. It doesn't have to be overwhelmingly full. The important thing is to seek balance between the various materials used. Direct your students all along the activity by limiting the amount of colours used in order to obtain a sense of unity when assembling the mural. You'll need about 120 minutes for this part of the activity.
3. Assemble the mural with pins or thumbtacks on a bulletin board so as to form a square, a rectangle or a shape of your choice, depending on the number of students and the size of the bulletin board. Try out various compilations until you reach an agreement

on how to organise the mural for it to be balanced in colour and texture. You can also use a glue gun to fasten pieces on a very large piece of cardboard, corrugated plastic polypropylene (Coroplast) or hardboard if you want to make the mural permanent. Discuss the results and each student's experience in making the mural (more or less 40 minutes).

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

