

Gyotaku - Fish Prints

Grade Level: K-12

Essential Skills: 1, 8

CCSS: 3.RI.7, W.5.3

NGSS: 5-LS2-1, 5-ESS2-2, and 3-5-ETS1-1

Social Sciences: 1.2, 2.3, 6.1

Time: Full class period

Materials:

Block ink, fabric ink or tempera paint; newspapers; paper or fabric for printing; brushes or foam brayer; [rubber fish replicas](#) available for checkout from Oregon AITC's Free Loan Library. You can also use a fresh, whole, real fish! NOTE: If you print on fabric you must use fabric ink.

AITC Library Resources:

Check out these materials online at AITC's [Free Loan Library](#):

Books: *Get Oregonized History Book* and *Get Oregonized Teacher's Guide*

Watch Them Grow

America at Work: Fishing

Before We Eat: From Farm to Table

What Hatches?

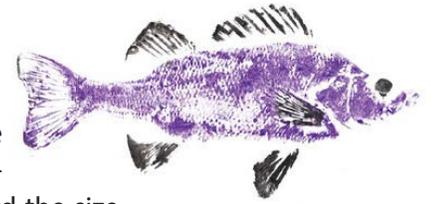
More lessons:

The Poetry of Agriculture

Video: Inquiry at Hinkle Creek

Description:

Gyotaku (pronounced GEE-OH-TAH-KOO) is the traditional Japanese art of fish printing on rice paper. The word gyotaku comes from *gyo* = fish and *taku* = stone monument rubbing. Gyotaku dates back to the mid-1800s. The fish prints were a way fishermen could record the size and type of their catches. In this lesson students make their own fish prints.



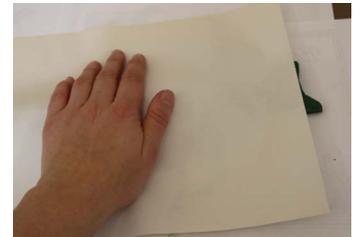
Directions:



1. Cover the surface of your work area with newspaper.
2. Coat the brush or foam brayer with paint and evenly cover the top of the fish with ink/paint.
3. Cover any ink/paint which has gotten on the work area around the fish with clean newspaper. This will prevent unwanted blotches from getting on the printing paper or fabric.



4. Holding onto the edges of your printing paper or fabric, carefully place it on top of the inked fish. Do not move the paper once it is placed on the fish, as it will smudge.



5. Place the palm of one hand over the paper or fabric that is covering the fish. Try not to move this hand. Use the fingers and palm of your other hand to gently press down on the paper or fabric covering the rest of the fish. Press as much of the fish as possible, making sure to press the fins and tail. Do not press on the same area twice or the print will be smudged.

6. After you have pressed the entire fish, carefully peel off your paper or fabric from one end to the other. If you are using the same color paint for your next print you can apply another coat and repeat the process. If you want to use a new color simply wash the fish in warm, soapy water and pat dry. You will then be ready for a new color.



7. Complete the poetry activity and/or the fish anatomy worksheet on page 2.

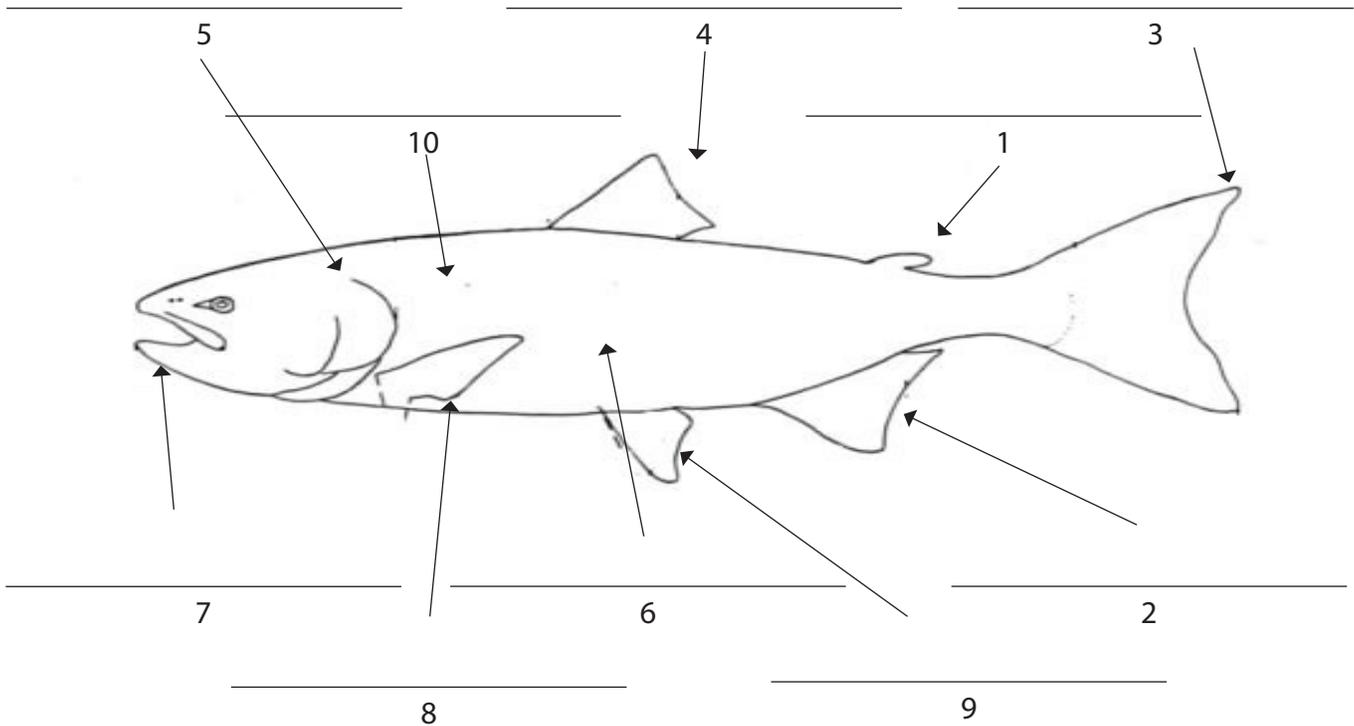
Extension Activities:

A stroll on the pier
dip your toes in the ocean
build a sand castle

Haiku poetry is another Japanese art form. These are short poems, often inspired by nature, and use sensory language to capture a feeling or image. Haiku poems have a specific format. They are divided into three phrases. The first phrase is five syllables long, the second is seven syllables and the third is five syllables. Have

students write a Haiku about fish, the ocean or Oregon's amazing coast. See the sample above, written by an elementary student.

ANATOMÍA DE UN PEZ



Direcciones

Identifica cada parte del pez arriba. Haga coincidir cada parte del pez con su función a continuación.

- | | | |
|--------------|-----|--|
| Adipose fin | ___ | a. Una cubierta de las branquias. |
| Anal fin | ___ | b. Un par de aletas utilizadas para el equilibrio; ubicado debajo y detrás de las aletas pectorales. |
| Caudal fin | ___ | c. Una cubierta especial en el pez que protege su cuerpo de lesiones.. |
| Dorsal fin | ___ | d. Un par de aletas solían permanecer en un lugar, sumergirse o elevarse a la superficie; ubicado frente a las aletas pélvicas. |
| Gill opening | ___ | e. Una sola aleta grasa que se encuentra en algunos tipos de peces, incluidos el salmón y la trucha; la aleta que se retira de los peces criados en criaderos antes de que se liberen. |
| Lateral line | ___ | f. La abertura donde el agua sale del pez después de pasar sobre las branquias; las branquias absorben el oxígeno del agua. |
| Operculum | ___ | g. Una sola aleta utilizada para el equilibrio; ubicado cerca de la cola en la superficie inferior del pez. |
| Pectoral fin | ___ | h. Una línea de escamas a cada lado del pez. |
| Pelvic fin | ___ | i. Esta aleta mueve al pez hacia adelante en el agua; ubicado en la cola. |
| Scales | ___ | j. Una sola aleta utilizada para el equilibrio; ubicado en la superficie superior del pez. |