



## Fanciful Fish

### Cross Curricular – Art & Science Grades 3–6

Lesson plan and artwork by Carol Miller,  
School Specialty Art Consultant, Wisconsin

#### Description

At the beach, the aquarium or even the dentist's office, kids are fascinated by the vivid colors, interesting shapes and intricate patterns of tropical fish. These creatures' varying characteristics teach students about habitat and adaptation. Your students can create 3-D fish of their own with brilliantly colored Crayola® products that "pop" against a black paper background.

#### Objectives

Students will create a colorful fish to hang from the ceiling. Students will observe the varying traits and adaptations of fish from different habitats.

#### National Standards

**Content Standard #1:** Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

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

#### Directions

**Teacher preparation:** Gather photographs and drawings of fish and borrow fish books from the school library to trigger your students' imaginations.

**With the students:**

- 1 Discuss the shapes of fish, pointing out similarities and differences between various types.
- 2 Draw the outline of a fish on black paper. Exaggerate its width. Make the narrowest part of the tail wide enough to stuff.
- 3 Cut out the fish through two sheets of paper. With younger children, cut out one fish, trace it on another sheet of paper, and cut again.
- 4 Secure the fish's two sides together with paper tape. Cut the tape into simple shapes, fold in half, moisten and place around the edge. (Colored tape will add a decorative touch; black tape



will be nearly invisible.) Use staples with younger children or to save time. Leave a six-inch opening to insert stuffing later.

- 5 Color the fish as desired, avoiding the edge of the opening so paper tape will stick after stuffing. Cut a tag board stencil to create patterns as on the illustration and to scallop the tail if desired.
- 6 Repeat on reverse side.
- 7 Crumple recycled paper and stuff it into the opening, being careful not to overfill the fish.
- 8 Use paper tape to secure the opening, coloring it if desired to complete the design.
- 9 Punch a hole at the top of the fish and suspend with string.

## Materials

Crayola® Twistables® Slick Stix, 12-color set  
[9-1293657-705](tel:9-1293657-705)

Crayola® Color Sticks Woodless Pencils, 24-color set  
[9-1290583-705](tel:9-1290583-705)

Crayola® Washable Window Crayons, 5-color set  
[9-1334626-705](tel:9-1334626-705)

Strathmore® Artagain™ Recycled Dry Media Drawing  
 Papers, 12"x18" black pad  
[9-411260-705](tel:9-411260-705)

Colored Paper Art Tape, 10-roll assortment  
[9-006390-705](tel:9-006390-705)

Recycled paper

String

Photos and drawings of fish from books and magazines  
 3"x12" strips of tag board (optional)