

Activity Name  
Fish Printing

suggested age group: 9-10

type of activity:

**art**

**world cultures**

reading/writing

**science**

mathematics

practical life

P.E. & health

social skills

play

materials needed:

rubber fish (we have trout, bass, bluegill from Dick Blick)

acrylic ink

foam brushes, one per ink color

cafeteria tray or similar

newsprint

clothesline and clothespins

setting the stage / picture book:

read Fish Everywhere by Britta Teckentrup

activity plan:

have children playing outside and call them in one or two at a time; those who are waiting can watch the procedure

children will first choose a fish and then choose a color of ink

place the desired fish on the tray, demonstrate how to use the eyedropper and then have them put multiple drops of ink on the fish and use the foam brush to spread it into an even layer

write the child's name on the piece of newsprint

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lay the newsprint on top of the inked fish and carefully press the paper down on every detail of the fish's body so that the ink transfers and makes a clear print (include the tail and each fin)

hang the fish print up on a clothesline to dry

follow up / notes:

it helps to put the fish name on the back of each rubber fish with a black Sharpie

I like to use Daler Rowney FW Pearlescent Acrylic Ink because it shimmers

with this project it takes a while to get through the entire class but each child's work goes quickly and the results are beautiful!

this activity goes well with a field trip to Little Grassy Fish Hatchery

for more fish story options, see

<http://switzerite.blogspot.com/2023/06/fish-tales.html>

background information on Gyotaku

<https://ocean.si.edu/conservation/get-involved/educational-uses-gyotaku-or-fish-printing>