

MAY: Koi Fish Dragon, Watercolor Resist

Art Appreciation with Koi Fish

Essential Question: How can I celebrate AAPI Heritage Month with visual art?



Supplies Needed	Art Vocabulary:	Learning Targets:	Meets WA Learning Standard:
Watercolor Paper	Complementary color	Students will be able to create a koi fish and/or dragon art to celebrate AAPI Heritage month.	VA:Pr6.1.3
Orange/yellow/red Crayons	Resist		
Watercolor paint, brush, & water container			
tape			
Sea salt flakes (optional)			

Instructions:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show students images of koi fish (do a Google image search). You can discuss the shape of a Koi fish and the shapes of the scales and fins and the orange and white colors. • Share the Chinese "Legend of the Koi Fish and the Dragon Gate" • Talk about how koi fish are important symbols in Asian cultures; koi have been representations of strength, bravery, and perseverance. You can discuss with students what those words mean and ask them how they have shown these qualities in their own life.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can next talk about complementary colors (colors across from each other on the color wheel: blue/orange, green/red, yellow/purple.) Talk about how complementary colors stand out and look good together. For today's lesson, students will use oranges and blues. They will draw Koi fish and/or dragons (or a cool combination of both!) with orange shades of crayons, then they will paint watery backgrounds in blue shades.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share with students the concept of Resist in watercolor. Resist prevents the watercolor paint from penetrating a specific area. Crayon is made of wax and will resist the watercolor.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give students a piece of watercolor paper and have them draw their koi fish with crayons. Wherever they put the crayon, make sure to use a heavy hand pressure (pressing hard) and do at least 2-3 layers of wax crayon, so it is very thick and will resist the watercolor paint.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next, have students tape their watercolor papers down. Have them paint with water first, and get the watery area wet. Then have them add paint with light and dark blues with watercolor. You will notice the wax crayon will not let the watercolor absorb.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you want, you can give your students a small carafe of sea salt flakes (from your art resource library) and have them sprinkle this on top of the wet watercolor. When it dries, the salt will absorb the color and leave an interesting pattern!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let it dry, then peel away the tape.

Pro Tips For Success:

- Encourage students to use a variety of orange crayon colors and a variety blue watercolor paints to create visual interest.
- When they draw with the crayon, use a heavy hand pressure! Layer the crayon colors 2-3 times so the wax is very thick on the paper. That way, it will resist the watercolor paint.
- If paint gets on the crayon, you can wipe it away with a napkin or finger.
- If you want the sea salt flakes to really stand out, use a dark color blue paint and make sure it is very wet so the salt will absorb the water.
- For older learners, you can give them writing prompts to go along with their art, asking them when they have acted like the koi fish. Have them write about times when they have shown bravery, perseverance and strength in their own life.
- Drawing a combination of koi and dragon is up to the student. Let them have creative expressions!