



Layered Coral Reef



GRADES 4-12

Cross Curricular: Art and Science

*Lesson Plan and Artwork by
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DESCRIPTION

This lesson uses multiple sheets of plastic to create the layers and depth of a coral reef. The reef itself holds an abundance of colors, shapes and textures to explore. This lesson can be completed as shown or can be extended to include writing and poetry on the box that holds the reef.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

Content Standard #1:
Understanding and applying media techniques and processes.

Content Standard #2:
Using knowledge of structures and functions.

Content Standard #6:
Making connections between visual art and other disciplines.



OBJECTIVES

- Students will study coral reef formations and the plants and animals living among them.
- Students will learn and experience the process of design layering of color and creation of depth.
- Students will utilize the elements and principles of design in selecting a composition.

DIRECTIONS

1. Have students study and explore coral reefs and the different animals that live within them, studying their colors, textures and structures.
2. Using colored pencils or markers have the students draw a coral reef on drawing paper the same size as the Decorate Me Box they have chosen. This will act as a template for your acrylic sheets. The more they incorporate into this drawing the better the depth of the finished piece will appear.
3. Assemble the materials for the finished project. Begin by cutting to size the mirror board and acrylic sheets so they will fit snugly within the Decorate Me Box that you have chosen.
4. Determine which structures animals or plants of the reef will be in the foreground, middle ground and background. The reef in this example uses five sheets of acrylic but you can use less or more depending on the depth effect you would like to obtain.
5. Lay one acrylic sheet at a time over the drawing to trace and transfer images. Use Sharpie® Brush Markers, Sharpie® Metallic Markers and Sharpie® Paint Pens to create the appropriate effects. The paint markers will be more opaque.
6. Remember that there will be a space between each sheet in the finished box using the 3 D-Os. It is helpful to work back and forth between acrylic sheets, pausing and layering your acrylic sheets to view them to make sure you are creating the depth effect you desire.
7. The next step is to assemble the piece. Begin by wrapping the mirror board in a piece of the iridescent cellophane. Secure the wrapped board using glue to the back of the Decorate Me Box.
8. Once that is secured, place a 3 D-O at each of the four inside corners of the box and layer your background acrylic sheet on top of those. The 3 D-Os can be layered on top of each other to create a larger space between the plastic sheets. If doing this, first do the math and make sure all plastic layers will fit in box. Repeat this process until all of your layers are in the box.
9. Next use the Sharpie® Brush Markers and Sharpie® Metallic Markers to decorate the exterior of the box and edges (do not use the paint pens on the surface of the box, they are not designed for porous surfaces). At this time the lid of the box can be removed, using a utility knife, or you may select to have your students do a poem or other writing on the lid (the lid in the finished image included here has been removed).



MATERIALS

- 1440657 Sharpie® Metallic Markers, Assorted Canister of 36
- 1438024 Sharpie® Marker Brush Tip Assorted, Set of 12
- 1371760 Sharpie® Fashion Paint Oil Markers, Set of 5
- 1494253 Hygloss™ Metallic Foilboard, 8-1/2 x 11 Inches, Pack of 25
- 405817 Decorate Me! Jewelry Box, 4-7/16 x 4-13/16 x 2-3/16 Inches, Pack of 24
- 088017 Decorate Me! Activity Box, 8-9/16 x 5 x 2-3/4 Inches, Pack of 12
- 207460 Pacon® Iridescent Cellophane Roll, 36 Inches x 12-1/2 feet
- 406601 3 D-O's® Foam Buttons, 1/2 Inch Diameter, Pack of 400
- 401473 Graftex® Plastic Sheets, 6 x 9 Inches, Pack of 10