

Silhouette Art

(Grade 6 Print: “Oyster Gatherers at Cancale” by Sargent)

Curriculum Connection: Science and Geography

Art Concept: Focal point, silhouettes, color to establish mood, elements in given picture plane (EALRS grade 6 # 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2)

Grade: 6 and up

Materials:

Variety of shells, oyster shells (visit beach)

White construction paper (9x12 inches)

Black construction paper (4.5x6 inches)(12x18 inches)

Tempera paints, sponges and water bowls

Exacto knives

Newspaper (to protect desks)

Glue

Scissors

Procedures:

1. Describe what a silhouette is (an outline figure, usually filled in with black). Explain to students they will be making a silhouette of a shell/shells using black paper placed on a background of a wash (art showing the lightness and darkness of a hue).
2. Have students choose one color of paint to create a “wash” on the white paper.
3. Explain to students that they should dip sponge into paint and then run brush across top of paper.

4. Next they should dip sponge once quickly into water and then run it across top of paper under first stripe making sure stripes “bleed” together.
5. Continue this procedure until whole page is covered. Let dry. The final effect should show the color going from darkest to lightest from top to bottom.
6. Using a pencil, have students draw an outline of a shell/shells on (4.5x6 inch) black paper using entire piece. Cut the shape/shapes out using scissors or knife. Students may wish to cut out “lacey” patterns of shell shape to create texture.
7. Glue shell shape onto color wash. Then glue black paper (12x18 inches) to back of artwork and trim to create a frame.