



## Workshop in a Box

Item # 2013964

### Fanciful Fish

#### Grades 6-12

Throughout history, people have studied and admired fish of all kinds for their beauty and mystery. Relief sculpture is a form of art in architecture which adorns buildings and structures all over the world and has its own place in the history of mankind. Combining the subject of fish and the relief sculpture technique helps depict and appreciate the beauty of nature in a different way.



#### Materials in Kit: Enough for 10 participants

Item# 1439151 Jack Richeson™ Doodles Rubbing Plates, 12 Plates  
 Item# 408332 Crescent® Flawboard, 8" x 10", Pack of 100  
 Item# 1334824 AMACO® Rub'n Buff® Sampler Set of 12, ½ oz. Tubes  
 Item# 404532 Crayola® Model Magic®, 1 oz., Assorted Colors, Classpack of 75

#### You will also need:

Manila Drawing Paper  
 Paint Brushes  
 Glue  
 Plastic Wrap  
 Plastic Bags

#### Objectives

- Create a relief sculpture of a fanciful fish, honoring the many types of fish found in our seas and rivers.
- Model Magic® will be used to create the parts of a fanciful fish with various textures from printing mats.
- Connect art, science and history through this lesson, which also includes texture and dimension.

#### Directions:

**Preparation:** Collect photos of relief sculptures. Our own government buildings and monuments have excellent examples of the Relief/Bas-Relief Sculpture techniques.

1. Combine the study of fish from science, using research from art history on relief sculpture, along with art techniques to create an imaginary fish relief sculpture.
2. Discuss and show examples of relief sculpture from history and present day. Explain that objects or subjects of a relief sculpture project from a base or background. They are always attached to the base and project outward. The entire picture is called a Relief or Frieze and the subjects are referred to as the Bas-Relief part of the sculpture.
3. Discuss how fish have been a subject of artists throughout history.
4. Use imagination to create a fish in relief form from Model Magic®. Study the parts of a fish's body and do an outline sketch of an imaginary fanciful fish on manila paper. This will serve as a guide for the project done in Model Magic®.
5. Experiment with the rubbing plates and Model Magic® to find interesting surface designs for the imaginary fish.
6. Using the fish outline drawing only as a guide, make a flat fish shape from Model Magic® to serve as a base for the relief sculpture.
7. Create all parts of the imaginary fish: head, tail, body, fins, eyes, scales, gills and mouth from Model Magic®, imprinting each part BEFORE adding them to the base shape one by one.
8. Join the parts of the fish by simply sticking them together. The Model Magic® sticks to itself without glue. If project cannot be finished in one sitting, cover the fish with plastic wrap and store it in a tightly sealed plastic bag. Parts may be added with glue at a later date.
9. A relief sculpture isn't just a side view of a subject, it may have many parts that are almost in the round.
10. Give the fish some character and dimension by twisting a fin or tail.
11. Varnish the fish with Sax® Tempera Varnish to add strength to the piece.
12. When the fish is dry, apply the various colors of Rub n'Buff® to complete the fish. Apply it with fingers or dry brush it on the surface of the fish using a very light touch. Dry brushing provides a wonderful effect and brings out the imprinted designs made from the rubbing plates.
13. Mount the fish on mat board.

**Cross Curricular:** Art, Social Studies and Science

#### National Core Art Standards:

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

**Content Standard #3:** Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas.

**Content Standard #4:** Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures.