

Watercolour Wetland

Grade 7 – Visual Arts



Lesson Details

Grade Level:	7	Curriculum Links:	Visual Arts	Time Needed:	2 hours
Learning Goal	To learn how to properly illustrate a wetland they have visited using watercolours and the Here, Near, Far approach.				
Success Criteria	By the end of this activity, students will have demonstrated their ability to utilize the Here, Near, Far approach to create a landscape image with watercolours.				
Specific Expectations	<p><i>Visual Arts</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate an understanding of composition, using multiple principles of design and the "rule of thirds" to create narrative artworks or artworks on a theme or topic; • Use a variety of materials, tools, techniques, and technologies to determine solutions to increasingly complex design challenges: drawing, mixed media, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and technology. 				
Materials Needed	Sketchbook, Pencil, Eraser, Watercolour Paint, Paint Brushes, Water, Appropriate Outdoor Clothing (Rainboots).				

Lesson Description

Overview	While visiting a local wetland, students will sketch the landscape which will be later coloured using watercolour. Students will learn the watercolour technique of Here, Near, Far to create depth in their image.
Activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First, take students to a local wetland. Have the students split into groups to explore the area. 2. While at the wetland, students should take time to sketch different angles of the wetland. 3. Back in the classroom, have the students clean up their drawings to create a final copy. 4. Introduce the students to the techniques used in watercolouring – specifically the Here, Near, Far approach to create depth within an image. 5. Next, the students should take time to complete their drawings. They must complete at least one image but are free to paint more if time permits.
Background Information	<p>Wetlands are crucial to the health of water systems. If a wetland was part of the human body, it'd be known as our kidneys. They filter water and regulate the distribution of its flow. Without wetlands, silt, sand, and pollutants would flow directly into our lakes, rivers, and oceans. It is important to note that wetlands are also a home to many species, not just plants. Turtles are most often found in wetlands. They are considered keystone species, in other words, incredibly valuable and integral to the health of the water. Likewise, wetlands provide a home for animals and contribute to their overall well-being. Wetlands teach us the relationships between the environment, plants, and animals.</p> <p>To create depth when using water colours, the best approach is to utilize the Here, Near, Far technique. Here: objects closest to the viewer with darker or more intense colors. Mostly located at the very bottom of the paper but can be near the top.</p> <p>Near: objects in the middle of the picture and close to the horizon line. Far: objects far</p>

Lesson Description

	away that diminish in size and appear light in colour. Located at the top of the paper.
Blacklist Masters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Link(s): Wetlands and Turtles in Ontario • For more information, please visit https://www.turtleguardians.com/sample-page/turtle-habitats/
Place-Based Learning	Students will gain an understanding of the different species of plants, animals, and other life that exists in a wetland.
Inquiry-Based Learning	<p>Using Open Inquiry, students will choose their own view of the landscape to sketch and colour.</p> <p>Ask the students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What biotic and abiotic things live in a wetland? • How do all the things in a wetland work together? • How can we help to conserve wetlands?
Turtle Stories	Now that you've painted a wetland, try making a wetland from another material. Use recycled goods to create a wetland landscape, make a wetland out of food, try using a different medium instead of watercolour on paper. Students are encouraged to share their experiences, pictures and illustrations on the Turtle Stories website, found here: https://www.turtlestories.ca/
Turtle Guardian Program Links	After completing Level 1 (Ontario Turtle Identification) of the Turtle Guardian Program , students can move onto Level 2 (Wetland Watchers). In this level the students learn how to monitor wetland habitats, contribute to knowledge of wildlife-biology in the region, and are able to adopt a wetland to monitor for wildlife. For more information, please visit https://www.turtleguardians.com/what-is-a-turtle-guardian/

My Notes