



Under the Sea Collage

Y6 Transition Activity



What is a 'collage'?

A piece of art made by sticking various different materials such as photographs and pieces of paper or fabric on to a backing.

You will be creating a *collage* image based on creatures and life under the sea.

You will be using lots of techniques such as:

- creating painted textures using recycled or repurposed items
- observational drawing and scale
- paper manipulation and scoring
- composition - layout and layering

Creating a textured background

We're going to be using bubble blowing to create our background. There are a few methods you can try depending what you have available at home. Make sure you protect the areas you're working on with newspaper or old towels - or even better work outside if the weather is nice!

1. Here, you mix your paint with a little water, and a squirt of washing-up liquid, stir it up either in a tray or glass and then blow into it with a straw to create lots and lots of bubbles.

You then gently drop the bubbles on to the paper and allow to dry if using a glass, or alternatively if you have used a big enough tray, gently place the paper over the bubbles to take a print from them, remove, and allow to dry. I did this with 2 colours here to create layers of colour.



HINT: If your colours don't seem very strong add a little more paint. Don't add too much water to begin!

(I used cheap Hobbycraft ready mix paint here but any paints or some inks will also work)

Creating a textured background



2. Again mix your paint with a little water, and a squirt of washing-up liquid, stir it up either in a tray or bowl and then blow into it with a bottle blower. To make a bottle blower, cut a bottle and cover the end with netting (the type you get onions, plums, lemons etc in), secure with Sellotape.

Take the bottle cap off and gently blow, once again either drop the bubbles on to the paper and allow to dry if using a bowl or alternatively if you have used a big enough tray, gently place the paper over the bubbles to take a print from them, remove, and allow to dry.

I used a bowl so let my print dry like this.



Creating a textured background

3. The 3rd technique involves painting with 'foam' bubbles. Again mix your paint with a little water, and a squirt of washing-up liquid, stir it up either in a tray or bowl. Using a sponge squeezy the liquid a few times to create a foam - the more you squeeze the more foam bubbles you'll create.

Either pour your foam on to a sheet of foil then gently place the paper over the bubbles to take a print or try spreading the bubbles across the paper. You will then need to leave the paper to dry.



HINT: You may need to experiment with a few spare sheets until you get the desired background you'd like, don't throw those practices away though! We'll use them for our collage later on! Don't worry if you have a couple of white spaces either, we'll cover those later on.

Monterey Bay Aquarium

So what are we putting on our lovely printed backgrounds?

Monterey Bay Aquarium was opened in October 1984. Based in California, USA it is considered by many to be the best in the world. They are passionate about ocean conservation and education. We will be using some of their live videos to take inspiration and draw from!

Follow or copy the link:

<https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams>

From here you can watch lots of different areas of the aquarium, my favourite is the jellyfish cam! Take a look and see which of the creatures and plants you like the most, you can pause videos or take screen shots to draw from ones you like.

(I've also included a few of my own images at the end which you can also use).



Observational Drawings

Observational drawings are drawings from existing things (usually photos you take yourself or things you can see first hand)

I would like you to create 4 drawings of creatures (fish, jellyfish, octopus etc) you have seen in the videos provided. Remember to think about the *scale* of your drawings. Scale in this context means the size. They need to be small enough to all fit on your background (with some extra bits later on) but also big enough to see some details.

You may add colour however you like - coloured pencils, watercolour pencils, watercolours, paints etc but avoid using wax crayons or felt tip if you can. You could choose to draw on some of your practice papers you have created. You may wish to go over your drawing once coloured, with a fineliner or biro to make details stand out.

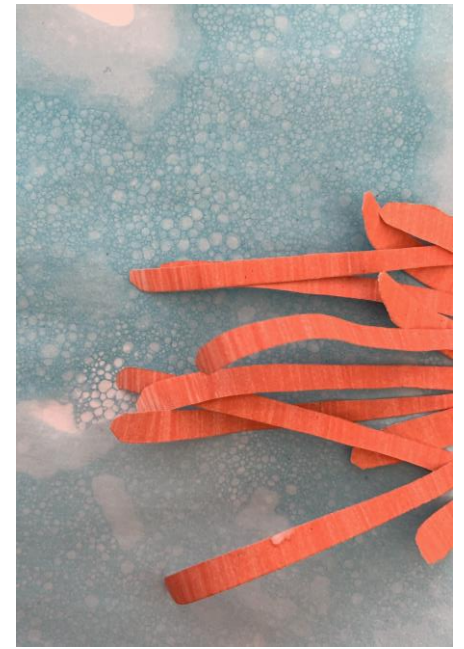


Paper Manipulation & Scoring

- Next we're going to add plants/coral reef and other underwater fauna to our collage. Look back at some of the videos/photos and see which ones you like.
- Paper manipulation means different ways of treating paper to create different textures or structures. Here are a few examples of paper manipulation I have used to create my coral, kelp and other underwater plants. You can use these or experiment with your own!
- Firstly I prepared paper in the colours I needed. I used paint to do this but you could use coloured papers/magazines/paint/colour pencils etc. You could even do more bubbles or printing with other objects to create a range of textures.



Here I folded pink paper in to a long strip and cut out lots of thin strips with rounded ends. These naturally started to curl but to make some curl more I wrapped them around pencils or carefully pulled them along the edge of a ruler (a bit like curling a ribbon).



Here I drew kelp shapes on the back of green paper and cut them out. I then drew a line down the middle and using the pointy end of a pen lid I followed this line applying pressure to *score* a line in my kelp. When I began to fold my kelp, it naturally started to bend on the line I had scored.

Composition

A composition is *the artistic arrangement of the parts of a picture*.

So far you will have:

A background

4 drawings

Plant/Fauna paper pieces

Now cut out any interesting bubble patterns from your practice background pieces. These can be long strips or small areas you find interesting.

When you have all of your pieces, begin to lay them out on your background. Play around with layers - having things in front of behind other things. Move things around until you find a layout you're happy with. If your composition looks a little 'empty' try adding another creature or plant.



Final Composition

When you're happy with your chosen layout, stick it out down and neaten up any ages.

You may wish to add shading in to show shadows or decide to add a few extra items to fill your composition.

