

“Matisse Underwater Collage”



Objective: Use organic and geometric shapes to create a Matisse- style collage.

Materials

- 9”x12” Dark Blue Construction Paper
- Tints/Shades of Blue Construction Paper Scraps
- White Construction Paper
- Scissors and Glue

Motivation

- Watch a video on the life and work of Matisse.
- Discuss how his disability didn’t stop him from making art, but just made him have to work in a different way.
- Show how he “drew with scissors” to make organic shapes in his artwork.

Step 1: Make Background

Have students cut the blue scrap paper into different geometric shapes. Once they have a variety of shapes, they can glue them to their 9”x12” blue construction paper.

Step 2: Cut Organic Shapes

Have students look at different sea animals and sea life in books. Notice how they are organic shapes. Demonstrate “drawing with scissors” by creating a few organic shapes in front of the students. Encourage students to practice for a bit before cutting out their final sea shapes from white paper.

Step 3: Put it All Together

Have students glue their organic sea shapes on top of their geometric blue backgrounds. Encourage them to think about composition. Give students a goal to meet. 5 shapes usually fill the space nicely.

Tip: To take this project a step further, challenge students to create some sort of pattern in their geometric blue background.

Tip: Although the point is to “draw” freehand with the scissors, some students may feel more comfortable drawing their shapes at first. Encourage them to be detailed, but not make any part of their shapes too small.