BAM Classroom from Home

Under the Sea

Learn, make, and play as you take a deep dive into the ocean! This series of art activities is dedicated to creating art inspired by the creatures, movements, mysteries of the deep sea. We hope this at-home curriculum will help you make art, learn about our local water ecosystem, and get outside!

This classroom is for...

Artists, scientists, and explorers entering 1st – 3rd grade (and their grown-ups!)

How this works:

Since we are unable to host summer camps at BAM this year, we've decided to offer our curriculum to our community! In this document, we have suggestions for craft activities including supply lists and instructions, book and video recommendations, resources on the Puget Sound, and MORE for families to learn together. At the end of this document, we have our own classroom timeline with how we would organize a week at BAM—you can use that as guidance or get creative and do your own thing!

Whether you pick one activity, pick a few, or do them all, we would love to see your work and will be sharing them in our Youth and Family emails! Send questions, comments, and photos of your art to education@bellevuearts.org.

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR THIS WEEK

General art supplies

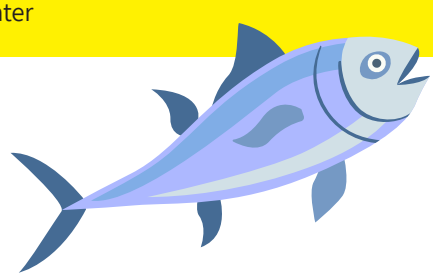
- Scissors
- Duct tape
- Air dry clay or quick dry clay
- Liquid watercolors
- Watercolor paper or another heavy paper
- Oil pastels
- Water-based tempera paint
- Sidewalk chalk

Specialty supplies

- Glycerin or corn syrup
- Natural fabric (cotton, linen, etc.)
- All-purpose powder dye (such as Rit brand)

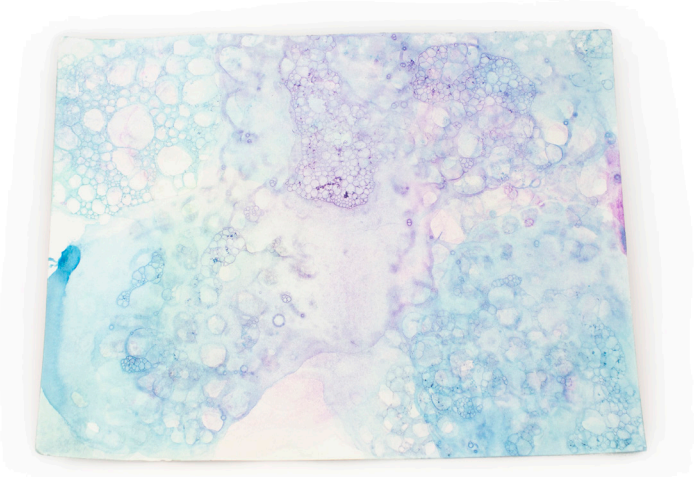
Recycled or found at home

- Plastic bottle
- Piece of mesh fruit bag, like what lemons or limes might come in at the grocery store
- Warm water
- Dishwashing detergent
- Water
- Texture-making devices, like forks, bubble wrap, stamps, etc.
- Smooth jar or bottle
- Skewer
- Drop cloth or newspaper to cover artmaking surfaces
- Ice
- Cooling rack
- Tape measure
- Bin or pan to catch dye
- Wax paper



ART | CRAFT | DESIGN
BELLEVUE ARTS MUSEUM
bellevuearts.org

ACTIVITIES:



Bubble Painting

MATERIALS NEEDED

Recycled bubble blower:
- Plastic bottle
- Scissors
- Duct tape
- Piece of mesh fruit bag, like what lemons or limes might come in at the grocery store

Homemade bubbles:
- 1 cup warm water
- ¼ cup dishwashing detergent
- 1 tablespoon glycerin (or corn syrup)

Painting:
- Dropcloth or newspaper to cover the ground
- Liquid watercolors
- Watercolor paper or another heavy paper

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Create your recycled bubble blower. Cut your bottle in half with a pair of scissors. Save the bottom half of the plastic bottle for another project, like creating a seedling planter. Take the top half of the bottle and stretch the mesh over the cut side and secure the mesh with duct tape.

2. Mix up your bubble solution. Gently mix together the water, dishwashing detergent, and glycerin. Divide the bubble solution amongst bowls that the wide end of your bubble blower can fit into. Color your bubble solution with liquid watercolors, using about a 1:3 ratio of watercolor to bubbles (such as 4 teaspoons of watercolor to ¼ cup of bubble solution). Mix well!

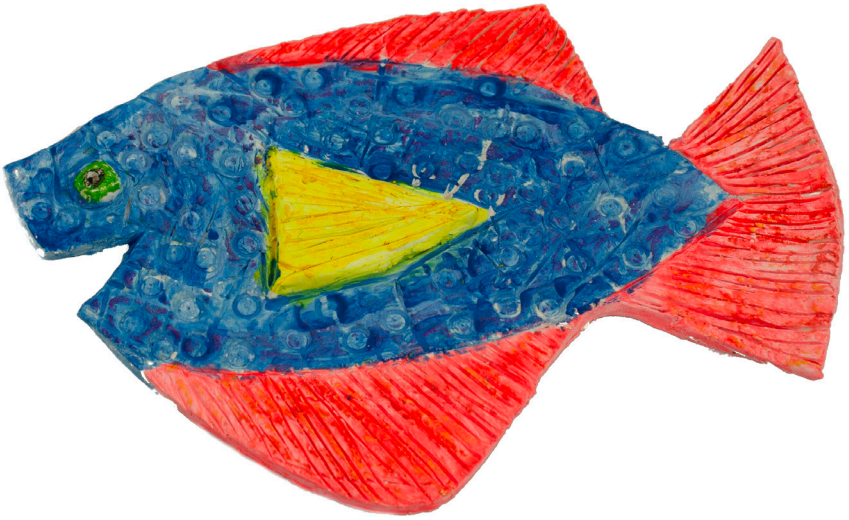
3. Lay out your drop cloth or newspapers outside and arrange your paper on top.

4. Time to get painting! Dip your bubble blower into your paint/bubble solution and gently blow bubbles onto your paper. **Make sure you are always blowing out!** Repeat with different colors, layering your bubbles and creating an interesting piece of abstract art.

5. When you are done, let your artwork dry completely.

Additional ideas and questions:
- What other materials could you do bubble art on?
- How does the artwork look different when it is dry and it is wet?
- What are you going to use this paper for? Some ideas include cards to your friends or backdrops for drawings!

Funky Fish



MATERIALS NEEDED

- Wax paper
- Quick dry or air dry clay
- Smooth jar or bottle
- Skewer
- Water
- Texture-making devices, like forks, bubble wrap, stamps, etc.
- Oil pastels
- Water-based tempera paint

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Set up your artmaking station. We like to use wax paper to protect the surface we are making art on and to make sure debris doesn't end up in our clay.

2. Gather about a fist-sized amount of clay. Flatten, pat, and roll it out with a jar or bottle so it's between ¼ inch and ½ inch thick.

3. Create your fish! Lightly "sketch" the outline of your fish in the clay with a skewer. You can do this by looking at a picture of a fish and copying what you see, directly tracing a fish onto your clay, or creating a fish with your imagination. Once you are happy with the outline, cut out your fish by fully pressing the skewer down. Peel off the excess clay.

4. Use this extra clay to add details to your fish! You can create eyes, fins, and scales with this extra material. Make sure you adhere the clay well by creating hash marks with the skewer on your fish and the clay you are adding and wet with water before sticking them together. This process is called "scoring" and ensures that your sculpture is strong!

5. Add texture to your fish by experimenting with objects found around your house. What sort of textures and patterns can you create with a fork, butter knife, bubble wrap, or bottle cap?

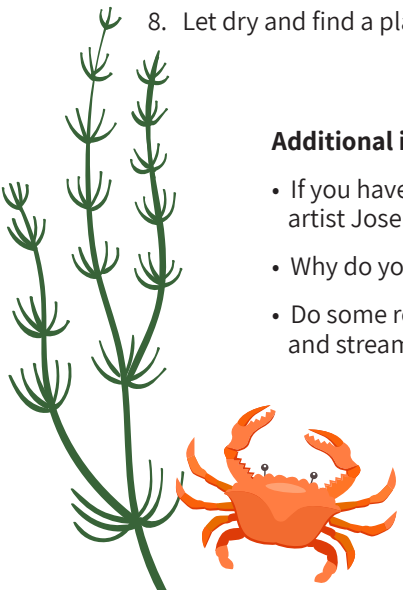
6. Once you've added enough texture to your fish, let your clay dry completely. Depending on the thickness of your fish, this could take between 24 and 48 hours.

7. Once the clay is fully dry, give your fish some color. First, use oil pastels to create more patterns. Next, use a water-based tempera to paint the rest of your fish. Watch how the tempera paint and oil pastel react to one another.

8. Let dry and find a place to display your beautiful new work of sea art!

Additional ideas and questions:

- If you have enough clay, make a school of fish inspired by *School*, an installation of abstract fish at BAM by the artist Joseph Rossano. Before your clay dries, use your skewer to create a hole in your fish so it can be hung.
- Why do you think the oil pastel and tempera paint react to one another?
- Do some research and learn about fish in the Puget Sound region. What fish swim in the sound, rivers, lakes, and streams?



Iced Tie Dye

MATERIALS NEEDED

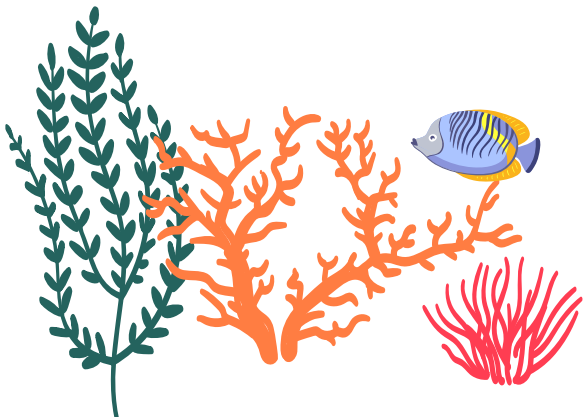
- Natural fabric (cotton, linen, etc.)
- All-purpose powder dye (such as Rit brand)
- Ice
- Cooling rack
- Bin or pan to catch dye
- Table cover

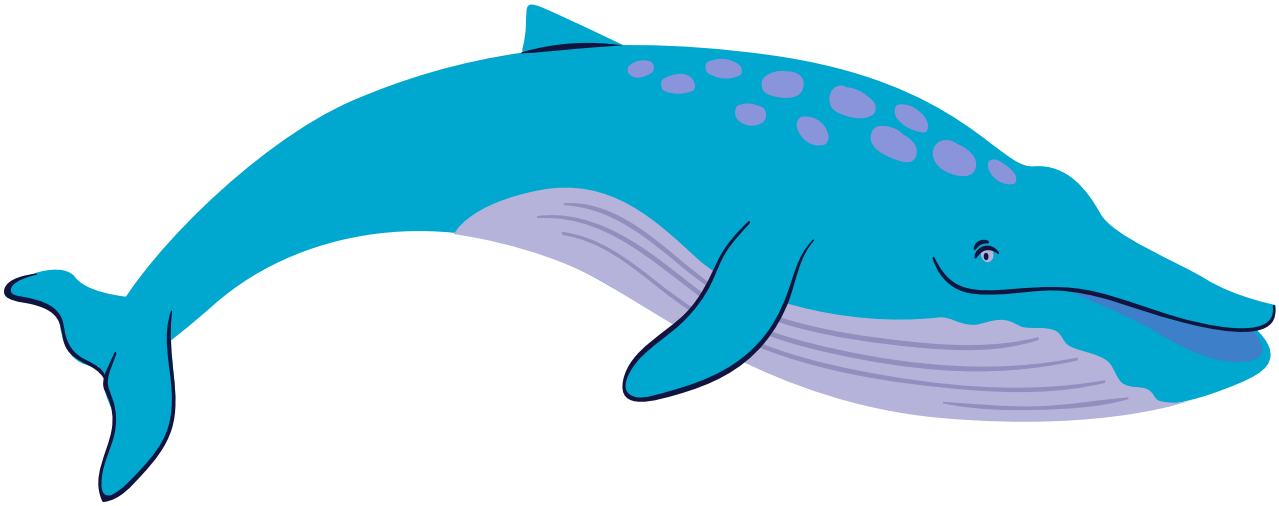
INSTRUCTIONS

1. Make sure your natural fabric is clean before dying by washing in warm, soapy water.
2. Set up your work area. Cover your work surface with a table cover (as you'll be working with dye that can stain!) and set up your bin or pan with a cooling rack set above. This bin will catch the melting ice and dye.
3. Wet your fabric and crumple it into a round, flat-ish shape on top of your rack.
4. Completely cover your fabric with ice. Different sized ice cubes will create different melting patterns.
5. Open your powder dye and sprinkle the dye over the ice. More dye will make the colors more concentrated.
6. Wait! Let your ice melt completely to color your fabric.
7. Follow the instructions on your powder dye to set the color. If you use Rit powder dye, this can be done in the microwave to heat set the dye into the fabric.
8. Wash in cold, soapy water. Let dry and enjoy!

Additional ideas and questions:

- Smash up some of the ice cubes while leaving some whole. How do you think this will affect your final tie dye product?
- What do the patterns created on your fabric remind you of?





How Big Is A Whale?

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Sidewalk chalk
- Tape measure
- Large open space, like a closed school or park parking lot

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Before beginning this STEAM activity, research and learn about whales. What are some of the largest species of whale? Are orcas whales? What are the different ways that whales eat?

2. After doing whale research, select one type of whale you would like to draw. How many feet long is this whale?

3. Using a measuring tape, measure out this whale in a large open space that is safe from cars.

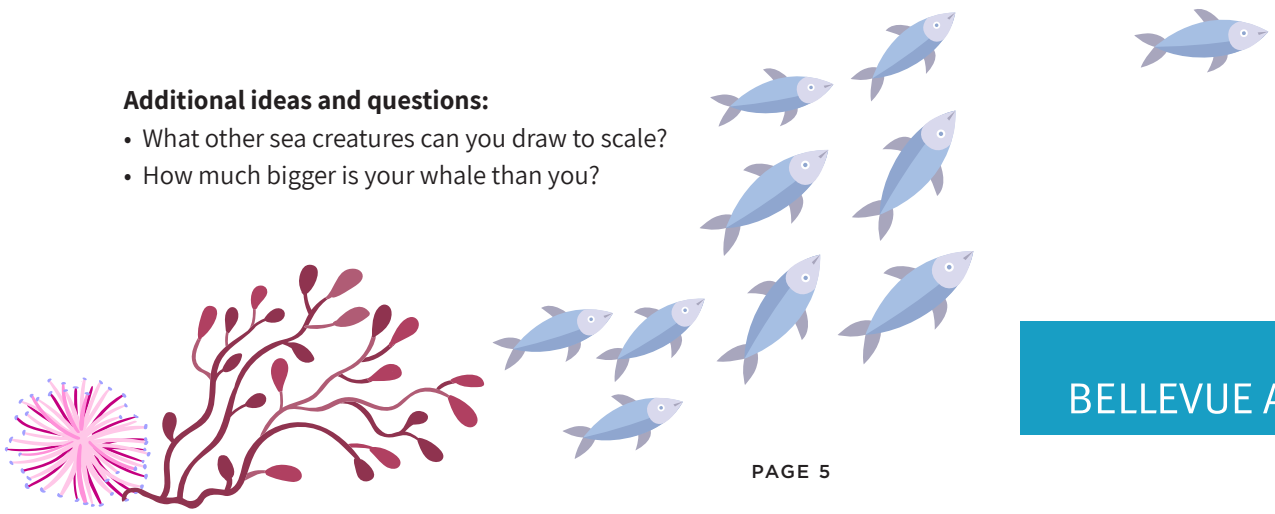
4. Use your chalk to draw a line that is as long as your whale.

5. Next, using your line for guidance, begin drawing your whale! It can be really challenging drawing something so large, so it can be good to practice drawing a smaller version of your whale before embarking on the life-size version.

6. Once you are done with your whale, admire your work! Have a friend stand at the other end of your whale and marvel at how big these mammals are!

Additional ideas and questions:

- What other sea creatures can you draw to scale?
- How much bigger is your whale than you?



MORE WAYS TO ENGAGE:

WATER PLAY

Sponge-Ball Catch

Make your sponge balls by cutting up sponges into strips and use rubber bands to hold them together, forming a ball-like shape. Then cut recycled plastic gallon jugs in half for each player. Holding the handle with the open side facing up, place the soaked ball inside and lightly toss the ball to another person to catch in their milk jug. Remember to toss and catch gently or expect a....SPLAT!

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Ideas

- History of salmon in the Puget Sound
- Everyone pick their favorite sea animal, find some fun facts about each of them, create a poster for each animal, and share your findings with each other
- The Great Barrier Reef

Podcasts

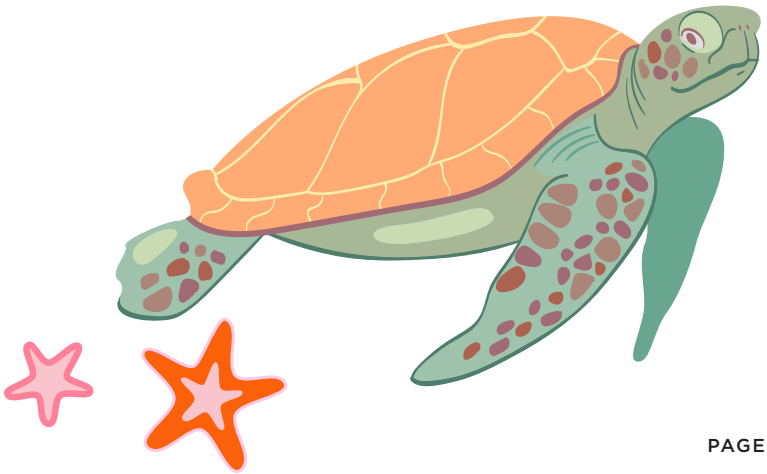
- Brains On!: Mermaids, Kraken and the Loch Ness Monster: Making Sense of Myths, pt. 3
- Brains On!: Keeping Water Healthy, One Clue at a Time

Websites & Videos

- neal.fun/deep-sea
- Seattle Aquarium webcams— Live-Cams and Videos of your favorite animals
- Monterey Bay Aquarium live webcams

Books

- *The Turning* by Emily Whitman
- *The Ocean Story* by John Seven
- *Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist* by Jess Keating
- *The Brilliant Deep: Rebuilding the World's Coral Reefs: The Story of Ken Nedimyer and the Coral Restoration Foundation* by Kate Messner



HOME CLASSROOM PLAN

Day 1:

- Warm up and get excited about Under the Sea by drawing some invented underwater creatures! Use whatever drawing materials you have and try to draw TEN wacky and weird sea creatures made up in your imagination. Pick your two favorite imaginary animals and give them names.
- Get started on your funky fish. Complete steps 1 – 6.
- Listen to one of our podcast recommendations.

Day 2:

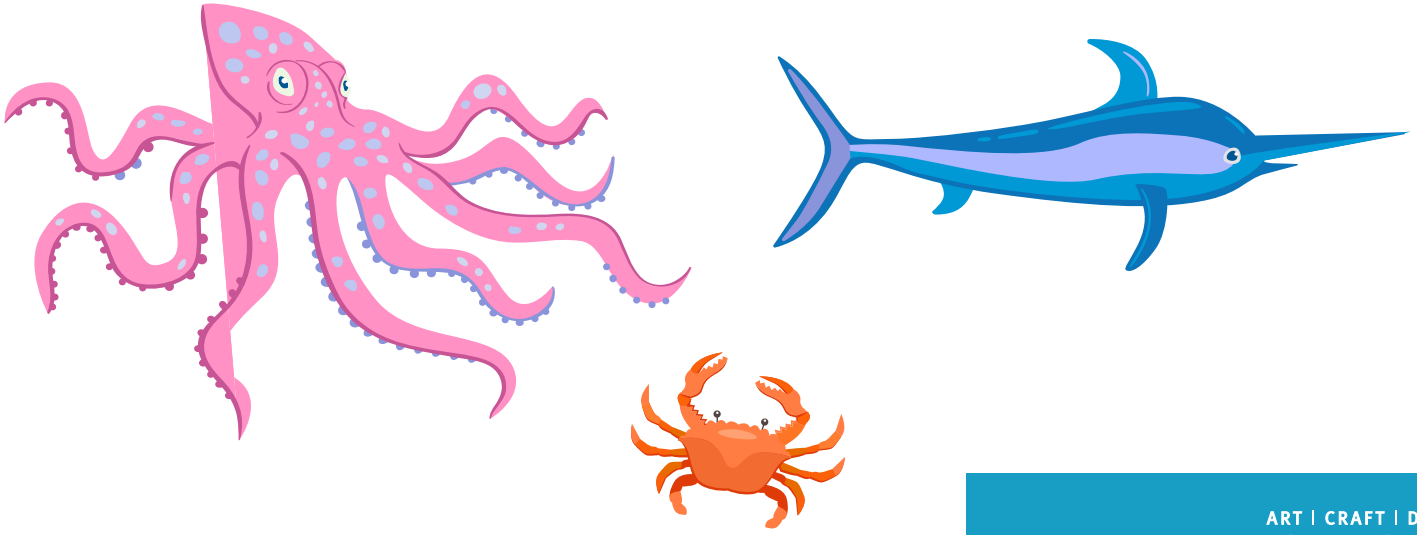
- Create your bubble paintings and let dry.
- How big is a whale? Get outside and marvel at how big these mammals truly are!
- Watch a live webcam of your favorite sea animal at an aquarium.

Day 3:

- Get started on your ice tie-dying. Complete steps 1 – 6.
- Finish your funky fish project by completing steps 7 and 8.
- Research the history of salmon in the Puget Sound to learn more about our local ecosystems.

Day 4:

- Set the color of your tie-dye creation and wash in cold water.
- Finish your bubble paintings by using your painting as a backdrop to another work of art. Create a sign to hang on the wall or a card to send a friend!
- Make posters covered in fun facts about your favorite sea animal!
- Share your creations together—send your photos to **education@bellevuearts.org** for an end-of-the-summer online art exhibition!



Illustrations: Courtesy of phc.vectors