

Lesson Plan: Blue Ringed Octopus

Class: _____ **Teacher:** _____ **Date:** _____



Easy Peasy Level:

Intermediate

Lesson Focus:

- Form: drawing, painting
- Subject Matter: Other living things - Octopus, the sea
- Elements & Principles of Art Focus: shape, colour, value, space
- Creating:
 - practising a variety of techniques and use various technologies to find different ways of interpreting a theme and/or subject matter
 - focusing on details of subject matter and areas of interest
 - experimenting with techniques in painting and drawing to create particular effects to suggest such things as close-ups, middle distance and long distance views, mood and atmosphere, light and dark suited to how subject matter may be interpreted
- Responding:
 - identifying resemblances between subject matter in artworks and the features of things as they exist in the world

Evidence of Learning:

By completing this lesson, the student is able to:

- Use materials, techniques and processes to explore visual conventions when making artworks
- Use the forms to suggest the qualities of subject matter

Description:

The blue-ringed octopus is a tiny but deadly Australian octopus that likes to live in rock pools by the ocean. When threatened, blue rings appear telling other creatures and people to stay away. In this artwork we create a colourful painting celebrating this unique creature. We use complimentary colours of orange and blue as well as red-orange and blue-green to really grab people's attention.



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Easy Peasy Tips:

- We draw first with oil pastel to add shadow and texture to our octopus. This makes it look more interesting.
- Complimentary colours are colours opposite each other on the colour wheel. They always look AMAZING together. Placing them next to each other in an artwork will really make your work stand out.
- See our complimentary colour wheel for more information.

For The Teacher:

- Use this lesson as part of a class unit on the sea or on animal adaption.
- Prior to the art lesson, have a class discussion about the blue-ringed octopus to learn about this unique Australian. Don't forget to remind students to never touch an octopus in a rock pool, just in case!
- Show them images of the octopus to help with their drawing.
- Show the class the colour wheel to identify pairs of complementary colours.

You will need:

- White paper
- Oil pastels or crayons.
- Poster paint - red, yellow & blue
- Optional - blue or green glitter paint or other decorative paints.
- Bristle brush
- Water container
- Newspaper or table cover to protect work space
- Paint shirt or apron

Creating your artwork:

1. Towards the top of the page, draw two large eyes as shown using a black oil pastel. Make them nice and BIG!
2. Now draw the top of the octopus' head. Think of it as half an oval.
3. Now draw the bottom of the head as shown. Leave a gap at the bottom for where the legs join.
4. An octopus has 8 legs. We begin by drawing 4 as shown. Make them about as thick as your fingers but thinner as they get to the tip of the leg. Don't forget to make them a little wiggly!
5. Now draw 2 more legs that join up with the others. This is so they appear to be hiding behind the other legs.
6. We need two more legs. Draw them between the other legs as shown.



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7. Draw small circles for suckers on the bottom edge of each leg. Make them nice and small.
8. Carefully draw different sized blue rings on the octopus using a blue oil pastel. Then use different coloured blues, purples, and white oil pastel to draw swirly lines in the background.
9. Prepare your paints and equipment. You will need red, blue and yellow poster paint, a water container and a bristle brush.
10. Paint the octopus using yellow. Leave a small amount of space around the edges.
11. Now using the red, carefully trace around the inside of the octopus' body and legs. Once finished, you may need to use a small amount of yellow paint to blend the two colours together.
12. After cleaning your brush, begin painting the background using blue. Experiment with mixing different amounts of water into the paint to create a lovely wishy washy water effect. This blue will look fantastic with the orange on the octopus.
13. Now mix a small amount of yellow paint into the wet blue paint to create a blue-green colour. Don't paint the whole background, just small areas. This colour will look great with the red-orange.
14. Your background should now look like this.
15. OPTIONAL: If you have some glitter paint or other paint that you could use to add decoration, paint it onto the background or octopus.
16. Once the paint is dry, you will need to trace over your blue rings again to make them blue once more. Your artwork is now complete!

What do you like about your artwork? What would you do differently next time?

Teacher Evaluation / Comment:



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Blue Ringed Octopus

