

# SYMMETRICAL PATTERNED FISH

This lesson is aimed at older pupils and can be integrated with work on symmetry in maths as it shows in a very visual way this mathematical concept. It could also be integrated into a "sea" theme in the classroom. This lesson is also good for giving pupils experience in mixing colours as it introduces pupils to the idea of hints, tints and hues when mixing paints.

1. Get a sheet of art paper and fold in half lengthways.
2. Placing the folded side of the sheet beside the body, draw an outline of half a fish, using up as much of the sheet as possible. Turn the sheet over and trace the outline of the fish onto the other side the sheet, so that you end up with a symmetrical fish. (sometimes it can be easier to trace by placing the sheet on the window glass when tracing)
3. Using a circular shape of any kind (jar lid, saucer etc.) trace scales onto the fish, trying to keep them roughly the same size. Try not to have the scales too small.
4. Start by using two colours. In the example below, you can see the starting colours of red and blue at the fish's mouth.

# SYMMETRICAL PATTERNED FISH

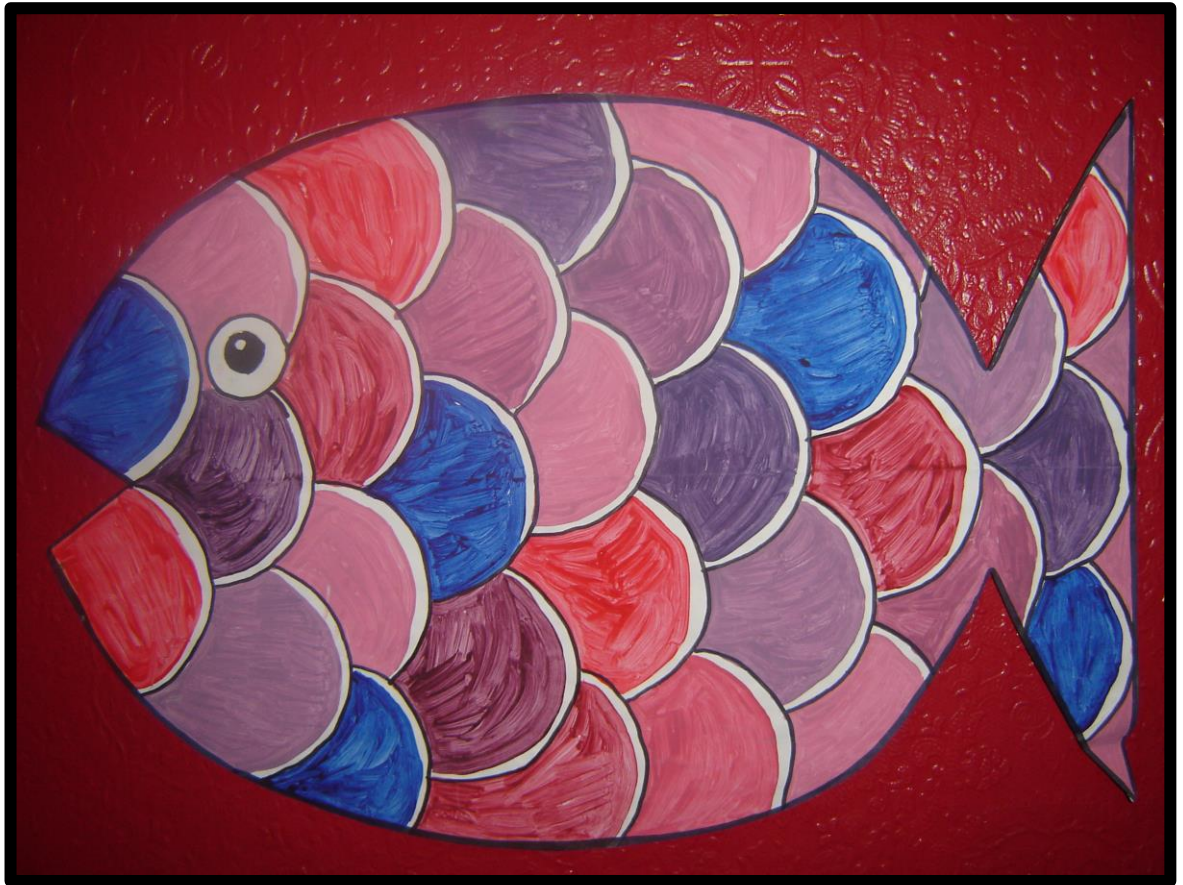
5. Then, by mixing different quantities of these colours, paint the rest of the scales. White paint may be used to achieve lighter colours and a small amount of black can achieve a darker colour. Lovely effects can be achieved by just sticking to the two colours and seeing how many different shades can be mixed to complete the fish.
6. By leaving a small semi-circle at the back of each scale unpainted gives added effect to the different colours.
7. Allow to dry overnight. When dry, trace over the lines of the scales using a thick black marker.
8. Cut out the fish and go over the outline also in black marker.

## Variation:

Complete two of these patterned fish, ensuring that they are completed on opposite orientations of the page ie. one fish facing right and the other facing left. When dry, start to staple the two fish together, leaving an opening. Stuff the inside of the fish with tissue paper or other stuffing material to give the fish a 3D effect. When stuffed, staple the opening together. Hang the 3D fish from a line across the classroom.

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Sample



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Kind regards, Seomra Ranga

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