

## Paint and Colour Lesson with 5<sup>th</sup> to 6th Classes

### ‘A Close Look at Fruit’

Gemma Mc Girr

**Curriculum Strand:** Paint and Colour (Visual Arts Curriculum p.68)

**Objective:** *Paint from observation (p.68)*  
*Become sensitive to increasingly subtle colour differences and tonal variations in natural and manufactured objects (p.68)*

**Linkage:** Drawing > *Draw from observation (p.68)*  
 Fabric and Fibre > *Make small inventive pieces in fabric and fibre (p.76)*

**Integration Possibilities:**

**Mathematics:** *Identify the properties of the circle (p.98)*

**SPHE:** *Realise and accept some personal responsibility for making wise food choices and adopting a healthy, balanced diet (p.57)*

**Science:** *Develop a simple understanding of food and nutrition (p.83)*

### Developing this Activity in Class:

**Materials Needed:** Paper  
 Palettes  
 Extra palettes or plates, for mixing colours  
 Blues (ultramarine, cyan), reds (vermillion, crimson), yellows (cadmium, ochre), white and black paint  
 Water containers  
 Selection of brushes  
 Magnifying glasses  
 J-cloths  
 A selection of fruit, e.g., kiwis, tomatoes, figs, oranges cut across the middle.

**Stimulus:** “Look closely at the fruit. What colours do you see? What tones of colour can you see? What shapes and patterns can you see? Are there any textures? Use the magnifying glasses to get a really good look.”

**Activity:** Having looked very closely at the fruit, the children choose a piece and make their paintings. Encourage them to mix the colours as closely as they can to the colours of the fruit. Encourage them to look closely at the patterns created by the pips and seeds in the fruits. Allow them to make several studies of the fruit. When they have finished their paintings, the children sign them, just as artists do!

### ***Evaluation/Looking and Responding:***

This will be happening as the children work. When they have finished give them time to discuss their paintings. They will enjoy explaining how they created the range and tones of colours by mixing the primaries. This could be done with the ‘Artist’s Chair’, where children take turns to show and describe their paintings. Display the children’s paintings in the classroom or corridor.

Encourage the children to respond to paintings such as ‘Still Life with Basket’ by Paul Cézanne, ‘Still life’ by Gustave Courbet and ‘Autumn’ by Giuseppe Arcimboldo.

**Extension Activity:** The children could repeat this exercise, painting on coloured paper instead of white paper, and the paintings would be more dramatic. They could also make paintings of the whole fruit arranged as a 'Still Life'.

**ICT Possibilities:** The children could make a Virtual Gallery of their paintings or prints by scanning them into a Power Point slide show on the class computer. (They could also be photographed with a digital camera and inserted into the Power Point program).

**Using the I Am An Artist DVD:** The *Paint and Colour* programmes on the DVD offer opportunities to listen to the children discussing colours and their reactions to mixing colours.

**Note:** It is a good idea to have a collection of brushes of different sizes. I found the household selection available in € shops ideal as they ranged in size from 1" to 3" and cost very little, about €3 for a pack of 3 or 4. If you look after them they will last for a good while.

**Relevant Artists:** Giuseppe Arcimboldo  
Paul Cézanne  
Other artists you think are relevant

**Relevant Websites:** Interactive site (*Cézanne's Astonishing Apples*) where children can take a close look at a Cézanne still life painting, learn about Cezanne and try out some of the activities suggested.

[http://www.metmuseum.org/explore/cezannes\\_apples/splash.html](http://www.metmuseum.org/explore/cezannes_apples/splash.html)

*Still Life* by Gustave Courbet

<http://www.galilean-library.org/images/david/courbet98.jpg>

*Still Life with Basket* by Paul Cézanne

<http://www.galilean-library.org/images/david/Still%20Life%20with%20Basket.jpg>

*Autumn* by Giuseppe Arcimboldo

<http://sunsite.dk/cgfa/a/p%2Darcimboldo2.htm>