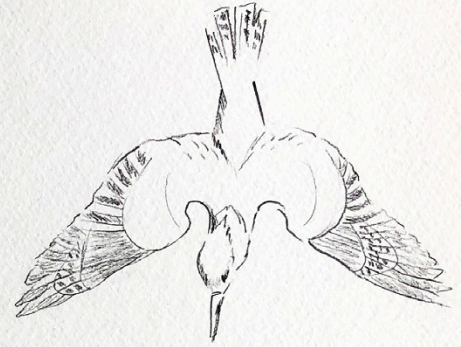


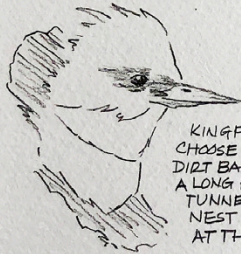


AFTER CATCHING HER FISH, THE KINGFISHER RETURNS TO HER PERCH WHERE SHE WHACKS IT AGAINST A BRANCH, TOSSES IT INTO THE AIR, AND SWALLOWS THE FISH HEAD FIRST.

PICTURED HERE IS THE FEMALE KINGFISHER WITH HER BLUE/GREY PLUMAGE AND STYLISH SPIKY CREST. LIKE THE MALE, SHE HAS A WHITE BANDANA SHAPED BAND AROUND HER NECK BUT ALSO HAS A CHESTNUT COLORED BELT AROUND HER MIDDLE.



THE KINGFISHER LIKES TO HUNT FROM A PERCH OVERHANGING THE CALM WATERS OF A LAKE OR POND. WHEN SHE SPOTS HER PREY, SHE SWOOPS STRAIGHT DOWN AT SPEEDS OF 35-45 MPH, PLUNGING HEAD FIRST INTO THE WATER TO SNATCH HER UNSUSPECTING MEAL OF SMALL FISH, FROGS, SALAMANDERS AND INSECTS.

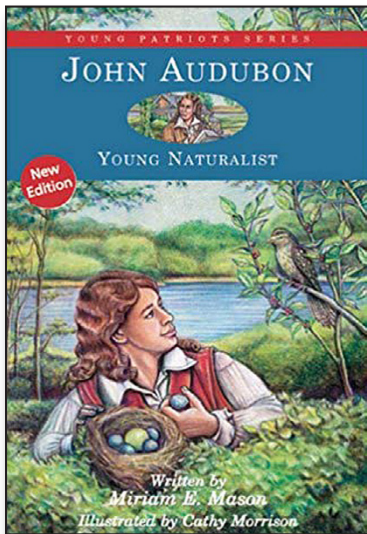


KINGFISHERS CHOOSE A STEEP DIRT BANK TO DIG A LONG HORIZONTAL TUNNEL WITH A NEST CHAMBER AT THE END.



FEMALES LAY 4-8 PURE WHITE GLOSSY EGGS

BELTED KINGFISHER



Additional Books:

Audubon: Painter of Birds in the Wild Frontier
Jennifer Armstrong (Grades 2 – 5)

Into The Woods: John James Audubon Lives His Dream
Robert Burleigh (Grades 3 – 5)

John James Audubon: Wildlife Artist
Peter Anderson (Grades 4 and up)

John James Audubon
Margaret Ford Kieran (Grades 4 and up)

Grade level: 4 and up

Time required 4-5 45 min class periods

Objective:

Students learn about the early life of the famous ornithologist and artist John James Audubon, and create an artistic bird study.

John Audubon: Young Naturalist

by Miriam E. Mason, Illustrated by Cathy Morrison

John Audubon: Young Naturalist is a wonderful narrative that captures the early bird loving passion of John Audubon, the greatest American painter of birds. It tells the story of the artist's childhood drawing birds based on his own scientific studies conducted while exploring in the fields and woods near his home in France.

In this lesson plan, students chose a bird of interest to research and create artwork from. They learn how to compose a strong layout using the basic elements of visual design.



Materials:

FC Drawing and Sketching Kit

FC Connector Paintbox

FC 24 MAX Colored EcoPencils

Medium soft, round paintbrush

Vocabulary:

ornithologist, habitat, layout, balance, contrast, focal point, body copy, wash, elements, typography, rag, tissue overlay, indicating, enhance

National Core Art Standards—Visual

Creating

Anchor Standard #1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work

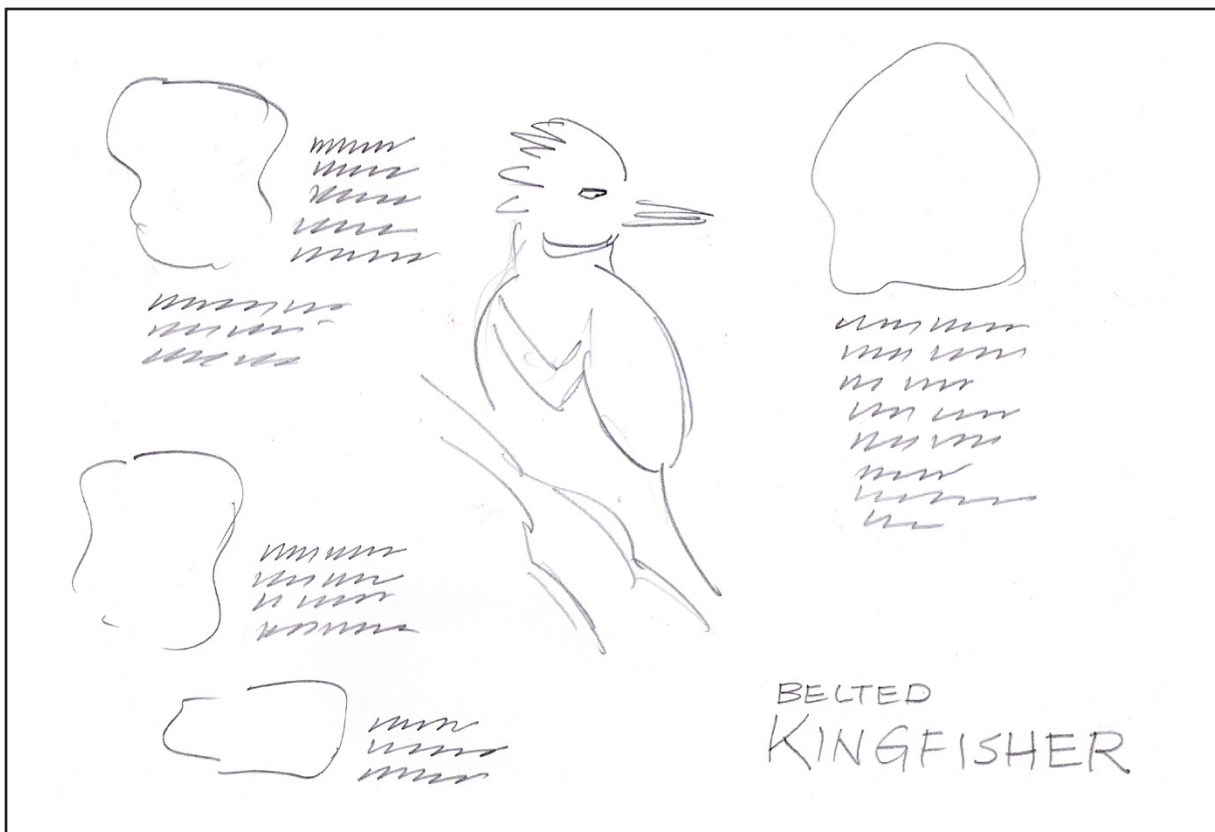
Anchor Standard #3: Refine and complete artistic work

Presenting

Anchor Standard #5: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation

Responding

Anchor Standard #8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work



Begin by having students choose a bird of interest for their project. They will need to do some research on this, choosing a bird that is visually appealing and has some fun and interesting habits to draw and describe.

Next, show students how to begin by designing a rough **layout** on tissue paper or basic sketch paper for their project. This is the basic map of how to position all of the **elements** for an interesting piece of art.

Show students how to begin by doing a loose sketch of the bird in the center of the paper, larger than the other images— this is the **focal point** of the layout, and will be later done in color. Students then make smaller sketches around the focal point, of interesting things that they have researched about their bird; nesting habits, behaviors, etc.

Have them consider space for the amount of **body copy** as well, **indicating** it loosely as shown.

This rough layout can all be drawn very loosely but thoughtfully, and used as a point of reference throughout the project.



1. Begin by having students re-draw just the center focal point bird into position onto the watercolor paper. Here they will draw with more detail and accuracy.



2. Next, show how to paint the bird with a light watery **wash** of base color. Let paint dry.



3. Continue by sketching in more detail and darker areas with graphite pencil. **Enhance** wash with more colored pencil detail. Add whatever additional color.



4. Finally, have students sketch in the **habitat** of their bird. Doing this in graphite pencil adds a nice **contrast** to the painted bird, allowing it to stand out more.



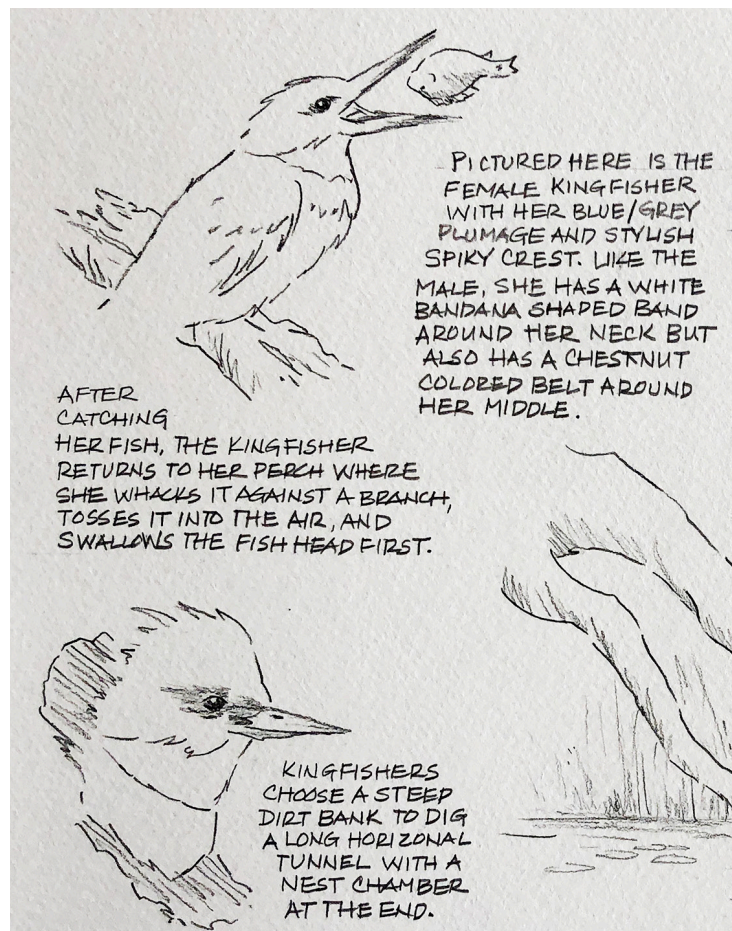
In this step, students sketch their smaller images into place onto the watercolor paper, carefully considering enough space for their copy. Encourage them to create clean simple sketches with a sharp pencil. Suggest practicing the sketch a bit on scrap paper before proceeding with the final drawing.

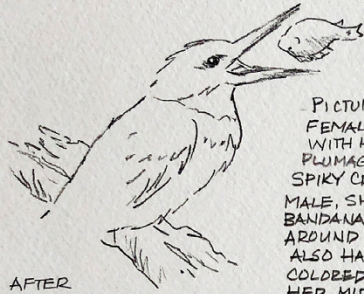
BELTED KINGFISHER

Typography refers to the style and appearance of any printed matter on the artwork. Here, we have the bird's name and the body copy for each sketched image to address. Younger, less advanced students can simply just write their information directly onto the art. Older students may have the ability and interest to learn the following lettering methods.

For the bird's name, show students how to rule out lightly drawn guidelines for their lettering. This is done by using a **triangle** aligned with the edge of the paper, ensuring that the lines are straight and even. If a triangle is not available, a **ruler** will do. Students then write their bird name in a sketchy manner with graphite pencil, so as to tie in with the rest of the art.

For the body copy, demonstrate how to **rag** their blocks of copy. This refers to the irregular or uneven margins, allowing the copy to form around the contours of the drawings. If time allows, show them how they can work out the body copy on a **tissue overlay** first as a guide, and then trace over it with the watercolor paper using a light table or bright window.





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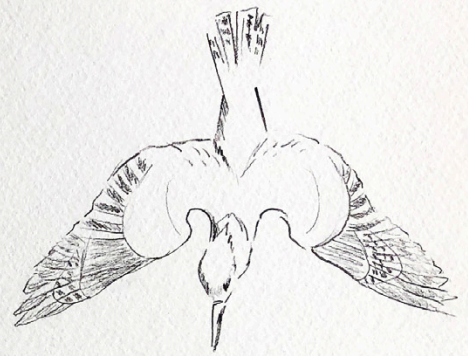
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BELTED KINGFISHER

There should be quite a variety of interesting and beautiful artwork produced by your students worth sharing! Consider displaying this impressive project at your next open house.

Tip:

Backing each student's work on a piece of larger black paper with a 2 inch border all around is an attractive way to present their artwork for exhibition.

Lesson plan by Janis Doukakis

www.greatartstartshere.com

www.fabercastell.com