

## LARSON, KRISTINE

This lesson has alterations for use in a 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade class setting and use in a 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade class setting.

### LESSON OBJECTIVE(S):

- Students will be knowledgeable of Audubon as an artist, his place in the history of Kentucky, and how his childhood love of birds and natural history propelled him to a career as an ornithologist and pre-eminent illustrator of North American birds.

### MATERIALS:

1. John James Audubon, *American Flamingo*, 1838 (6A)
2. The Boy Who Drew Birds by Jacqueline Davis
3. Flamingo Sunset by Jonathan London (for 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade)
4. Marco Flamenco by Sheila Jarkins (for 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade)
5. 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade Art Materials
  - a. white sulphite drawing paper
  - b. oil pastel crayons
  - c. liquid watercolor paint
  - d. oval tracer
  - e. pencils
6. 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade Art Materials
  - a. sketching paper
  - b. pencils
  - c. white paper towels
  - d. white glue
  - e. washable tempera paints
  - f. paintbrushes
  - g. feathers
  - h. findings
  - i. floral raffia
  - j. wrapped wire
  - k. gesso
  - l. small bits of Crayola Model Magic
  - m. selection of books with images of birds
  - n. 3"x5" card
  - o. glue gun (for teacher)

### **PROCEDURES FOR FIRST/SECOND GRADE 2D LESSON:**

1. Read the supplemental books.
2. Discuss the Audubon poster by talking about the slope of the bird's neck, the shape of its body and how the bird's legs made straight and zigzag lines.
3. Each student creates a flamingo drawing like Audubon. Students are encouraged to fill up the page like Audubon. For this age level, I often supply a template so that children make the figures large enough. Using an oval template, students sketched their birds during the first class period and used oil pastel crayons to color the forms. They also penciled in a horizon line as we discussed foreground and background. The second-class period we painted the bird and the background. We briefly mentioned tints and shades as we mixed pink paint before painting.

### **Assessment for First/Second Grade 2D Lesson:**

- To evaluate their work, students can enjoy seeing their finished paintings on display on our common area bulletin boards. Every child can enjoy his/her work on display- at this age level I consider this public display an affirmation, not really an assessment, of their efforts. Each child took pleasure in a finished piece of Audubon inspired art.

### **PROCEDURES FOR THIRD/FOURTH GRADE 3D LESSON:**

1. As an introduction to Audubon's work, read The Boy Who Drew Birds.
2. Allow students to look over a selection of books with images of birds in order to provide a foundation for choosing a bird species to form.
3. Students choose a bird they would like to study and write three facts about the bird on a 3" x 5" card.
4. Students draw several thumbnail sketches of their birds.
5. Demonstrate how to form the shape of the bird using masking tape and crumpled paper. I told the students that they would first make the shape of the bird. Wings and beaks and legs would be made at another stage.
6. After students create a bird form that is satisfactory in size and shape, students cut out light cardboard shapes for the wings. I used thinned white glue as a paste along with strips of white paper towel for the papier-mâché process. After the body was completed, the wing structure was taped on the body and also wrapped with the wet paper strips. After the body and wings were completed and left to dry, students constructed a beak from Crayola "Model Magic." The beaks were glued to the bird figure with white glue.

7. After the components are dry, apply a coat of gesso so the students can begin painting. When the bird models are painted, students can add feathers and “googly eyes” if they choose. Legs can be constructed of wrapped flower wire, which teachers can help attach with a glue gun.

**Assessment for Third/Fourth Grade 3D Lesson:**

- In terms of evaluating the results, our elementary art students are not given letter grades, but their sculptures will be on display for all to admire. All students enthusiastically completed a three dimensional bird with painted features.