

ONE FISH, TWO FISH

Dear Presenter,

This activity is 2 to 5 minute HANDS-ON presentation for approximately 500 people. You must do this activity at home BEFORE you attempt to lead the activity during the water festival.

Thank you for volunteering to present “One Fish, Two Fish.” Have fun, enjoy yourself and we hope you will consider volunteering again next year.

Big Sioux Water Festival

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MATERIALS LIST (FOR APPROXIMATELY 500 PEOPLE - 10 STATIONS)

CONSUMABLES

- 1 Ream (500) 11"x17" white paper (preferably card stock)
- Large garbage bags
- 10 - 3" - 4" disposable paint rollers
- 10 large packages of all purpose wet wipes/washcloths
- 6 rolls of paper towels
- Tempera paint - miscellaneous colors
- 3 plastic table clothes to cover tables
- 3 rolls masking tape
- 10 - 8"x8" square aluminum cake pans
- 3 rolls clear packing tape
- 10 stir sticks

NON-CONSUMABLES

- 10 long sleeve flannel shirts that button
- 9 - 4'x8' styrofoam boards (can be purchased from a home improvement store)
- 200 push pins
- 1 small fishing lure plastic box to store push pins in
- 12 permanent markers
- 1 small storage container for the markers
- Collection of Gytaku rubber fish replicas
- 10 plastic 3" - 4" plastic roller handles
- 2 large garbage cans
- Rectangular Rubbermaid storage container for miscellaneous supplies
- Large Rubbermaid storage container for the entire kit
- Presenter notebook

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This activity is a hands-on activity. To best explain and supervise this activity you must do it at home BEFORE the actual presentation.

Background information is provided as a basic overview with both general and specific information. Share this information with the visitors throughout the activity.

BACKGROUND

Gyotaku (gyo = fish and taku = rubbing) is believed to have been devised in the Todugawa Era (1600-1868) by samurai warriors living in the mountainous Yamagata Prefecture of northern Japan. This area is still a haven for fisherman. In addition to requiring such traditional skills as judo and kendo, Yamataga's feudal lords demanded that their warriors be skilled in fishing. The ideal samurai excelled not only in the military arts but in the fine arts, a concept summed up in the word "bunbu" meaning "culture" and "militia," mind and body. The oldest existing fish print is a red sea bream done in 1862.

Many Japanese fisherman use gyotaku. What better way to document size, species and appearance of the "catch of the day?" Fishermen may stretch the truth, but fish prints never lie. In Japan, many fishing contests are decided by gyotaku prints, because photographs do not always express the true size and details of the fish.

In the United States, gyotaku has been practiced as an art form for about 25 years. The late Janet Roemhild Canning was the first expert American fish printer and illustrator of fishes. She worked for the Smithsonian Institution. She also worked closely with a group of Japanese printers who formed a group called "gyotaku-no kai" which means friends of fish printing.

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ROOM REQUIREMENTS

- Room with tables - three 8' tables for the activity; one 8' table for storing presenter supplies

PRE-PREPARATION

Pre-preparation can include any or all of the following

- Check supplies against supply list
- If obtaining shirts from a second-hand store, make sure they've been washed and dried.
- Cut off a portion of the long sleeves of each flannel shirt, making the sleeve length approximately 3/4 of the total length. This will protect the participants clothing, while allowing them to make the print without dragging the sleeves through paint
- Place push pins into the fishing lure box
- Check all markers and make sure they work
- Tear apart paper towel sheets

PREPARATION - Approximately 1 hour to set up

- Lay plastic table clothes on three 8' tables. Carefully tape them to the tables.
- Mix tempera paint in combinations to make different colors of paint (one color per fish replica). Place paint in aluminum cake pans.
- Assemble paint rollers and handles. Place one roller in front of each color of paint
- Line large garbage cans with garbage bags.
- Open all packages of wet wipes/washcloths.
- Make separate paint stations (one station per fish replica).

Station set up (one station per fish replica)

- 1 tray of tempera paint
- 1 paint roller with handle
- 1 long sleeve flannel shirt
- 1 piece of 11"x17" white paper
- 1 rubber fish replica

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INTENDED STUDENT OUTCOMES

By completing this activity the students should be able to:

- Understand that gyotaku is an ancient form of Japanese art
- Understand basic characteristics of the individual fish they've printed

PROCEDURE

1. With your team of volunteers (we suggest 1 volunteer per fish replica), carefully review the information about each fish (information is provided by the company from which you purchased the rubber fish replicas. These information sheets can be laminated for longer use). Remember, people coming to your presentation will not be there very long, so you'll need to be able to give out basic information about the fish they're painting while they're doing the activity.
2. Greet each of your visitors enthusiastically. As a person approaches your station, instruct them to put on the flannel shirt **BACKWARDS** (buttons should be in the back). This will enable them to paint the print, without having to worry about getting paint on their clothes.
3. Instruct the participant to carefully roll paint onto their roller. A thin coat of paint will show the fish details better. After they've painted the top of their fish replica, they will need to place the 11"x17" white paper on the top of the painted fish. Carefully press the paper onto the fish replica, being mindful not to move the paper once it's placed on the fish replica (this will cause the print to smear).
4. While participant is making the print, talk about the history of gyotaku. Share the information about your fish species and give general pointers about making the print.
5. Allow the paper to sit on the painted fish replica a couple seconds. Lift it gently from the fish replica and lay onto the table. Offer a wet wipe/washcloth to the participant to wipe off any excess paint from their hands. Have participant write his/her name and school on the print with one of the markers.
6. Advise the participant that it will take a few minutes for his/her print to dry and they can stop back later to pick it up. Ask participant to take off his/her flannel shirt and lay it on the table.
7. Grab 4 push pins from the box and carefully hang the fish print on one of the display boards.

CLEAN UP AND SET UP FOR NEXT PARTICIPANT

8. Turn the flannel shirt right-side out (if necessary)
9. Wipe off handle of roller (if necessary)
10. Use paper towels to wipe up any excess paint that is on the table
11. Place a clean 11"x17" piece of white paper on the table
12. Dispose of any used paper towels or wet wipes
13. If necessary, mix more paint for your aluminum pan

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FINAL CLEAN UP Approximately 45 minutes

- Dispose of all aluminum pans
- Unfasten the rollers from the handles. Dispose of rollers. Wash and dry roller handles and place in the Rubbermaid container for storage
- Untape the table clothes from the table and dispose of them
- Carefully fold flannel shirts and place in large storage container (if necessary, launder shirts prior to storage)
- Replace push pins into the fishing lure box and place in the large storage container
- Recap all markers, put in small plastic container and place in the large storage container
- Carefully cap any unused paint and place in large storage container
- Combine any unused wet wipes/washcloths and tightly close. Place in large storage container
- Gently wash rubber fish replicas in warm water. Allow to air dry and place in large storage container
- Place any unused supplies (masking tape, cake pans, paper, etc.) into large storage container.
- Place presenter notebook into large storage container