

Whales on the Wall

COMMUNITY CERAMIC TILE PROJECT

Through the completion of a hand painted ceramic tile, each student will develop their knowledge of the grey whale and its migration habits, as well as other marine life in their surrounding ocean.

The intent is to have the students partake in 3 sessions of 1.5 hours each where marine flora and fauna will be discussed and relevant activities practiced. Each student will have the chance to creatively express this new information through the medium of ceramics, encompassing texture and color on clay.

Whales on the Wall hopes to educate students on the lives of the grey whale, as well as give them confidence in their ability to take part in a school beautification project.

Class Leaders

Daniela Petosa (ceramic artist and educator) and Local Marine Educator

Daniela Petosa is a graduate of the Ceramics Certificate Program at Fleming College Haliburton School of the Arts. She is excited about sharing her passion for the art of ceramics with the youth. She hopes to inspire and educate them about this art medium, while informing them on sea life. She is a resident of Tofino, and has experience teaching ceramics to both children and adults from her personal studio in Tofino and the Kootenays.

Schools: Wickaninnish Elementary School, Ucluelet Elementary School

Dates: 3 classes of 1.5 hours/week for each of the grades during the months of January/February/March, at the convenience of each teacher

Grades: 3-8

Materials Needed:

- visual aids in regards to marine life, and grey whales
- pencils, paints, paper, scissors, markers, tape, glue sticks
- name tags for the kids

- sea sponges, regular sponges for cleaning up
- newspaper to protect table tops
- rubber stamps
- wooden stamps
- wooden modeling tools
- plastic forks and knives
- various texture tools
- clay
- sheets of plastic
- buckets of water
- under-glazes in various colors
- paintbrushes
- painting trays
- flat wooden boards for transporting tiles

Lesson Plan #1: A local marine educator and Daniela Petosa will discuss the grey whales, their migration, and marine life. The use of visual aids is imperative to this class, i.e. story books, grey whale posters, underwater photos, kids' videos, etc. to help inspire their imagination. Related games will be applied to this lesson as an aid to encourage active participation and maintain the attention of the students.

Lesson Plan #2: Firstly in this lesson, Daniela will review what was taught and discussed in lesson #1. Next we will proceed with drawing and painting exercises as a tool to have the students practice their visual interpretations of whales and marine life. These exercises should prepare the children for their next project, working with clay. They will then be guided through texture discovery and painting on a clay surface, again using underwater images as the theme for their chosen designs.

Lesson Plan #3: This class will be focused on the execution of the final project. Each student will be provided with 2 pre-cut clay tiles, which have been dried to the right firmness, known as leather-hard as to make the painting and textureizing of the tile most successful. They will be asked to draw their images and scenes on their tiles in pencil first, then paint on under-glaze color and add various textures to their designs.

As a follow up and completion of the ceramic tiles, I will allow the tiles to dry slowly to avoid warping, as this is an issue of concern with the making of any slab form. When the tiles have dried completely I will fire them in the kiln at the Wickaninish School. I will then proceed to coat the tiles in a transparent, shiny glaze which forms a protective glass coating over the surface of the tile, but does not disrupt the created image. Once again the tiles will be loaded in the kiln for a second and final firing.

The finished tiles will be saved for future mounting on a wall in the school or in the community that has yet to be determined.

Budget

Materials	Costs
Clay 8 boxes @ \$20 each	\$180
Underglazes	\$100
Wooden and Rubber Stamps	\$ 50
Sea Sponges	\$ 20
Name Tags for Kids	\$ 10
TOTAL	\$360

**the following items can be borrowed from the school to keep project costs down:

- visual aids from school library
- pencils, paints, paper, scissors, markers, tape, glue sticks
- paintbrushes, painting trays
- sponges for cleaning
- various texture tools

**any specialized tools (such as wooden modeling tools, wooden boards, etc.) can be borrowed from Daniela's studio

**all other materials needed can be collected from around town (such as plastic knives, buckets, etc)

Instructor Costs	
3 hours prep time for each group of students	
4.5 hours per class – actual time with students	
Lesson Plan Preparation	
Set up and Breakdown of work areas	
Transportation of Materials and Finished Work	
Loading and Unloading of Kilns	
Glazing Tiles	
Total	\$850

Materials Cost	\$360
Instructor Fee	\$850
Total Cost of Project	\$1210