

Unit Plan Template Year 9 Unit 3

Name of unit: Portraiture: Wildlife: Observing and Expressing the Natural World

Expected Outcomes

- Learners will develop accurate observational drawing skills focused on wildlife.
- Learners will apply pencil and ink techniques to show texture, tone, and detail.
- Learners will experiment with colour and mark-making using watercolour, pastel, and collage.
- Learners will combine 2D materials and techniques to create expressive animal compositions.
- Learners will plan and produce a final piece that reflects their creative choices and technical development.

Developmental Focus Opportunities

- **Observation and accuracy: Studying animal forms and proportions.**
- **Media experimentation: Exploring a range of materials and mark-making techniques.**
- **Creative expression: Using texture, colour, and composition to convey movement and character.**
- **Artistic independence: Making decisions about media combinations and layout.**
- **Critical reflection: Evaluating the effectiveness of visual storytelling and technique.**

Key Learning Points

- Wildlife art involves close observation and attention to anatomical detail.
- Texture and tone can be expressed through varied media and mark-making.
- Composition and colour choices affect the mood and impact of the artwork.
- Combining materials allows for dynamic and expressive outcomes.

Powerful Knowledge

- Understanding how artists represent animals and nature through different styles.
- Applying techniques to create texture, movement, and atmosphere.
- Planning and refining a composition that communicates intent and emotion.

Subject-Specific Vocabulary

- **Observation**
- **Texture**
- **Tone**
- **Proportion**
- **Mark-making**
- **Composition**
- **Contrast**
- **Mixed Media**
- **Detail**

Reading Opportunities

- Artist profiles (e.g., John James Audubon, Robert Bateman, Pollyanna Pickering).
- Articles on wildlife illustration and conservation art.
- Visual analysis of animal studies in art.
- Technique guides for ink, watercolour, and pastel.

Possible Misconceptions

Cross-Curricular Links

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- Wildlife art is only about realism.
- Animals are too difficult to draw accurately.
- Mixed media cannot be used effectively in animal studies.
- Texture and tone are only created with pencil.

- **Science: Studying animal anatomy and habitats.**
- **Geography: Exploring ecosystems and biodiversity.**
- **English: Writing descriptive pieces inspired by wildlife.**
- **PSHE: Discussing empathy and connection to nature.**
- **ICT: Using digital tools for wildlife research and image editing.**