

Age: Second Grade

Lesson Duration: 1 Hour & 30 Minutes

Subjects: Science, Earth Science, & Erosion

Mixed-Media River Collages Inspired by Philip Govedare

A HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITY
DESIGNED BY MONA
EDUCATION

Description

Students will draw on their understanding of natural geological phenomena to design a physical representation of a river. They will observe processes in the recommended videos before creating their own version, and look to the work of Philip Govedare for inspiration.



Example by Lynn Prewitt

Materials

- ["Why do rivers curve" video](#)
- ["Why do deltas form" video](#)
- Scrap paper for sketching
- Pencils
- Thick white paper for the background
- Beige, brown, blue and green tissue paper
- Blue, brown, and/or green yarn
- Scissors
- Watered down glue or Modge Podge
- Glue brushes (large stiff brushes that can be used to spread the glue mixture)

Instructions

- 1) Ask the students what they know about river formation and erosion.
- 2) Watch one or both of the recommended videos in the materials list and look at photos to help students get ideas for how to design their rivers.
- 3) Use Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) to discuss an attached work of Philip Govedare. More information on VTS and Philip Govedare is included at the end of this lesson.
- 4) Ask students to sketch out their river plan using pencil on scratch paper.
- 5) Students can create their backgrounds by painting the entire thick paper with glue mixture and then using ripped or cut pieces of the tissue paper to fill in the paper and create the land.
- 6) Once they've finished their backgrounds, they can create their rivers on top of the tissue paper using cut pieces of blue yarn and gluing them down with Modge Podge or glue.
- 7) They will coat the full collage in a final coat of Modge Podge to seal it.

Relevant Vocabulary

- ✓ Meandering
- ✓ Erosion
- ✓ Delta
- ✓ Sediment

Learning and State Standards

Fulfills [Washington State Arts Learning Standards](#):

- **VA:Cr1.1.2** (Brainstorm collaboratively multiple approaches to an art or design problem)
- **VA:Cr.2.2.2** (Demonstrate safe procedures for using and cleaning art tools, equipment, and studio spaces)
- **VA:Re7.1.2** (Perceive and describe aesthetic characteristics of one's natural world and constructed environments)

About the Artist: Philip Govedare



Portrait of Philip Govedare
Source: Art.Washington.Edu

West-coast born and raised, Philip Govedare, is well known for his landscape paintings. According to Govedare, his paintings are "a response to the landscape we inhabit with all its complexity and layered meanings." His detailed work truly works to show depth and detail, while appearing almost minimalistic at first.



Left: **Crater**

Above: **Agate**

Source: PhilipGovedare.com

Visual Thinking Strategies

MoNA's Education programs utilize Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS), which is a research-based teaching method that promotes aesthetic development including critical thinking and communication skills. Here in the MoNA, we use VTS to engage students and general visitors with art encouraging them to observe closely, think critically and discuss respectfully; however, VTS can be effectively used across curricula. This approach teaches its participants how to take the time to observe closely, describe what they see in detail and provide evidence for their observations. Students learn that their reflections and thoughts are valued and appreciated in this inclusive teaching method.

In order to facilitate a VTS discussion, you first encourage viewers to take a quiet moment to observe the work you are going to explore. Then you ask the following questions and paraphrase the responses without adding any of your own judgements. You can insert additional vocabulary and point to specific parts of the artwork.

What's going on in this picture?

What do you see that makes you say...?

What more can you find?

Visual Thinking Strategy Links

If you are interested in learning more about VTS, [here is their website](#). If you already know and love VTS, but want help finding great images to use in your classroom, here is a [fantastic gallery](#). You can also visit this website for additional resources: www.monamuseum.org/resources-for-educators



Agate

Source: PhilipGovedare.com



Crater

Source: PhilipGovedare.com



Asset

Source: PhilipGovedare.com