

# Duncan ColorWorks

## Starfish Project Ceramic Art Lesson Plan



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## Starfish - - Ceramic Art Lesson Plan

**Grade Level:** K-8

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### **Introduction:**

Twice each day the ocean waters rise along the shores and twice each day they fall. This constant rising and falling is called the tide. When the water retreats from the land's edge, it leaves little pockets of water teeming with sea life. The tide pool offers us our first contact with mysteries of the sea. One of the most common sights in the tide pool is the starfish. They may be seen hanging on rocks when the tide goes out. They come in a wide variety of sizes and colors, but are always star-shaped. Most starfish have 5 arms but some have as many as twelve. Shellfish are their main food. Their mouth is on the underside, in the middle. Each arm on the Starfish has a foot on the end; and each foot has a sucker like suction cup that helps them stick to rocks and catch their food. Using their suckers, they pull open the shell of shellfish and they push their stomach inside the shell and slowly digest the clam or oyster right on the spot. Starfish don't have eyes, they have an eyespot on the tip of each arm. Starfish breathe through their feet. Truly, the starfish is an amazing animal.

### **Educational Objectives:**

This lesson provides opportunities for students to:

- Learn how to pinch and pull clay from a chunk of clay.
- Learn to push and pull the clay to form a starfish. Noting that none of the parts should be taken off or added back onto the starfish.
- Learn how to texture and decorate the starfish with different media.

### **References:**

How the Starfish Got to Sea – Althea Trotman

Adventures of Sammy Starfish – Dona L. Nadleigh

Starfish – Edith Thacher – Harper Collins Children's Books

Starfish – Rebecca Steffoff

Web – [www.marinelab.sarasota.fl.us](http://www.marinelab.sarasota.fl.us)  
[www.nature.ca/notebooks](http://www.nature.ca/notebooks)

### **Teaching Tips:**

Other ways of decorating:

Use three coats of Cover Coat® Opaque Underglaze, color of your choice, Fire to cone 04.

Sponge on SY 547 Wax Resist with TL 415 Sponge.

Glaze with Envision™ Glaze IN 1653 Downright White and Fire to cone 06.

If you wish to hang the starfish, place a hole at the crease or at the point of the starfish. Or place a wad of clay in the center of the starfish by scoring and using slip. After placing a hole in the starfish, put picture wire through the hole.

### **Duncan Materials:**

For 30 Students

### **E-Z Stroke™ Translucent Underglazes:**

- E-Z Stroke™ assorted colors



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### Concepts™ Clear Dipping Glaze:

- CN 2000D

### Brushes/Tools:

- BR 545- ¾" Flat Translucent
- TL 415- Sponge

### Miscellaneous Materials:

- 50lbs of clay (2- 25lb Bags)
- Board to model the clay on
- Plastic knife
- Plastic spoon
- Water containers
- Dried Coffee grounds (3-4 Tablespoons per student)
- Slip (4 ounces per student)
- Plastic plates to hold colors

### Step-by-Step:

1. Using a 25# bag of clay, cut a 2" slab of clay.
2. Place the clay on the board and flatten it to 1".
3. Push in with your knuckle, making five legs all the way around the starfish.
4. Pull the legs into a point at the end.
5. Wad a paper towel to make a ring. This is to place under the starfish when you gently turn him over to carve the underside of the starfish.
6. Turn the starfish over and using a plastic spoon gently scoop out the inside of the starfish's legs and center, leaving a thick armature of the legs.
7. Take a pencil and gently push a hole into the center of the underbelly for his mouth.
8. Before turning the starfish over, take the end of a cap of a Bic or similar ballpoint pen to make marks to look like suction cups under the legs.
9. Turn the starfish over and shape and smooth the legs so they come to a point.
10. Mix 4 tablespoons of coffee grounds into 4 ounces of slip.
11. Apply to the top of the starfish with a stiff brush.
12. Dry completely. This will take several days.
13. Sponge with E-Z Stroke™, colors of your choice.
14. Fire to cone 04.
15. Dip in CN 2000D.
16. Fire to cone 06.

### Project Closure:

#### Language Arts connection and project closure

- Write and illustrate a brief description of this project, include detailed descriptions of the materials used and what happened during this project.

National Standards for the Arts:

<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/ArtsStandards.html>

<http://www.mcrel.org/compendium/Standard.asp?SubjectID=13>

State Standards:

<http://edstandards.org/Standards.html>

Or refer to the Dept. of Education for a specific state.

Please visit [www.duncanceramics.com](http://www.duncanceramics.com), Art Educators tab, Learn tab, to view the Standards based Vocabulary and Language Instruction, Art Project Rubric, and Writing Rubric documents.