

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade LWSD Art Docent Project: Leo Lionni's Animal World

## Focus on Community Art

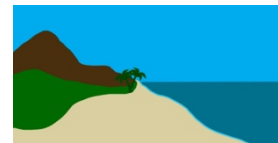
**Objective:** To create a community mural with animals created by individual students, trying to reproduce some of the interesting visual texture seen in Leo Lionni's artwork

**Artistic Influence:** Italian author and illustrator Leo Lionni



### Materials:

- Pencils
- Watercolor paint
- Oil pastels
- Tempera paint
- Sharpies or other permanent markers
- Possible textured items and shapes that students can use as stamps (rubber stamps with patterns on them, sponges, cork, small bubble wrap, or anything else you can think of that could create interesting patterns)
- 90# white sulphite paper
- Large sheets of colored butcher paper for the backdrop image (something like the image to the right)
- Stamp pads
- Paintbrushes
- Scissors
- Paper towels



### Instructions and notes:

1. Before the lesson, you might ask the teacher to check out a few of Leo Lionni's picturebooks from the school library. The teacher can also have students think about the animal they would like to draw for this art lesson and perhaps have them bring an animal picture for inspiration.
2. This lesson will most likely take two sessions to complete (one hour for painting and approximately half an hour to cut and assemble), due to drying time of paint and the collaborative nature of the mural.
3. While the lesson is mainly about working as a community to produce a mural, creating visual texture is also important. Leo Lionni painted intricate visual textures in his animals, so encourage students to use layering techniques in this lesson to achieve interesting visual textures in their animals as well.
4. The lesson shows many possible materials that can be used to create visual texture. You do not need to use all of them, just whatever you have at hand. Watercolor resist (watercolor painted over oil pastel designs) would be a great option to give the students if you do not have access to sponges, stamps or stamp pads. You could also offer students crumpled-up paper or aluminum foil as a stamp.
5. A note about stamping an underpainting and then overpainting with watercolor. If students use stamps to create patterns, encourage them to use a light enough color of watercolor not to obscure the pretty patterns they created.
6. A note about watercolor resist: While students can use any color of oil pastel they would like for their bottom layer of color, let them know that white or other lighter oil pastel colors can create a fun, negative-space effect, like the white dots on the snail in the lesson slides.
7. Print the following project information page to post on your bulletin board with the finished art.
8. Please complete the brief [LWSD Art Docent Program Feedback Survey](#) for this lesson.
9. Thank you for supporting our elementary students' visual arts education.

## LWSD Art Docent Project: Leo Lionni's Animal World

The goal of this 3<sup>rd</sup> grade lesson was to have students participate in the creation of a community mural, each drawing and painting their own animal, inspired by the colors and visual textures of Leo Lionni.



Richly textured pages from Swimmy by Leo Lionni

### WA State Visual Arts Standard

Individually or collaboratively construct representations, diagrams, or maps of places that are part of everyday life. (VA: Cr2.3.3)

Author and illustrator Leo Lionni is the beloved creator of Caldecott honor books, Inch by Inch (1961), Swimmy (1964), Frederick (1968), and Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse (1970) along with many other books for children.

Students chose an animal to draw and paint using layered techniques to create visual texture. The class then cut out their animals and worked together to create a community mural with all of the animals together.