

# Grade 3 – Leo Lionni's Animal World



Community Art

# What do you see?



Richly textured pages from Swimmy by Leo Lionni

# Artistic Focus: Community Art



Detail from Swimmy by Leo Lionni

**COMMUNITY ART** is an artistic activity based in a community setting, emphasizing collaboration.

## Today's objective:

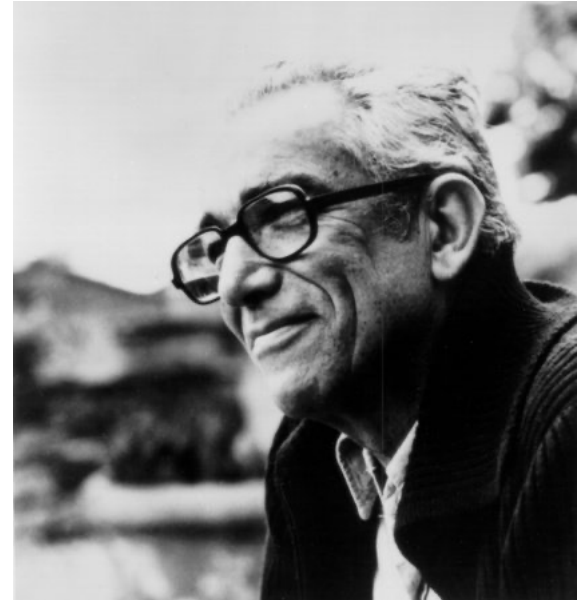
1. To create a colorful landscape full of animals painted in the richly textured style of Leo Lionni.
2. For each student to contribute a different animal to the scene.
3. To practice layering techniques like watercolor resist, stamping and underpainting.

## WA State Visual Arts Standard

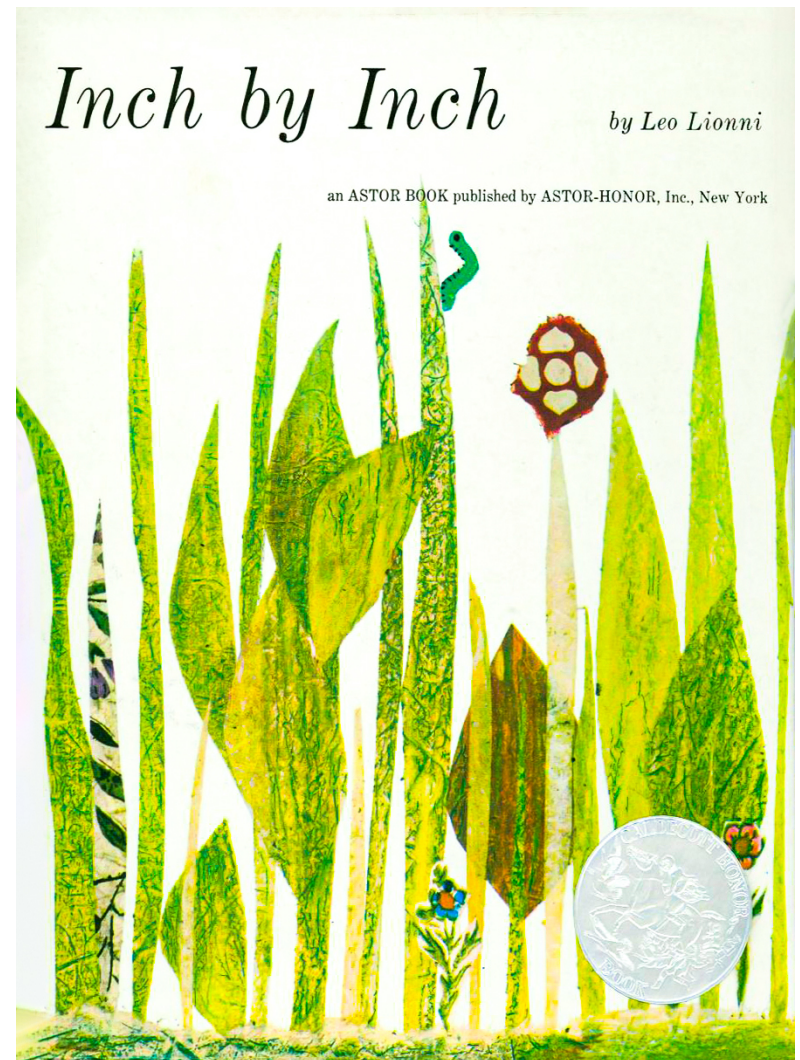
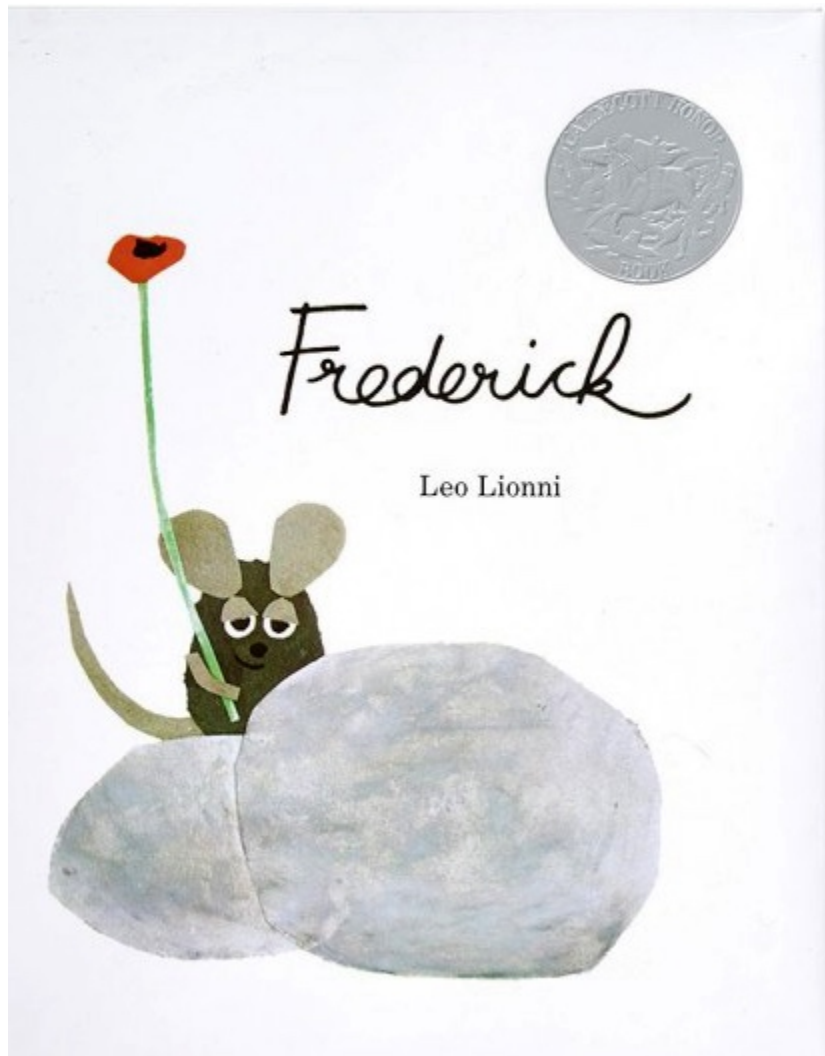
Individually or collaboratively construct representations, diagrams, or maps of places that are part of everyday life.  
(VA: Cr2.3.3)

# Leo Lionni

- Author and illustrator.
- Born in the Netherlands in 1910 and grew up in the Netherlands, United States, and Italy.
- Worked as an advertising director in the United States for many years.
- After returning to Italy in the early 1960's, he began writing and illustrating children's books.
- He wrote over 40 children's books and won several awards.
- Four of his books won Caldecott honors, including:
  - Inch by Inch (1961)
  - Swimmy (1964)
  - Frederick (1968)
  - Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse (1970)



# Artwork



Books by Leo Lionni

# Artwork



Books by Leo Lionni

# Possible Materials

90# white sulphite or  
thicker watercolor paper



Oil pastels



Scissors



Paper towels



Pencil



Assorted paintbrushes



Water cups



Watercolor, tempera paint, stamp pads



Sharpie



Any texture tools (stamps, corks, sponges, etc.)



# Example of Today's Project



# Before You Begin

1. Write your **name** in pencil on the **back** of the paper.
2. Flip over your paper.
3. **Roll up your sleeves!**



# Step 1

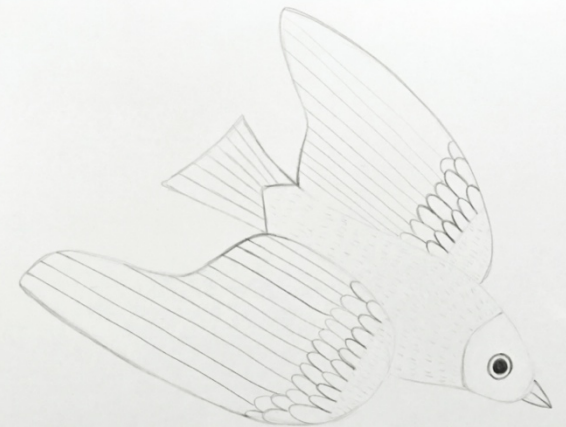
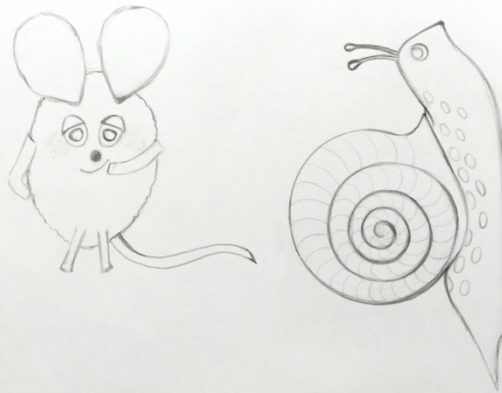
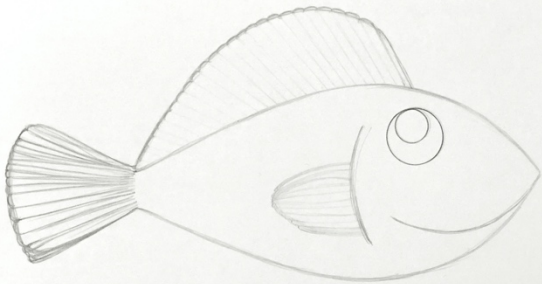
- Choose an animal to draw.
- Look at this example backdrop.
- Do you want your animal to live on land, sea or air?



## Step 2

Make your animals big for the mural!

- In most cases you should fill your 9" x 12" paper with your animal.
- If you are drawing a very large animal, consider drawing half of the animal on one piece of paper and half on the other.
- You may also draw a large animal on one piece of paper and then place toward the back of the mural (higher up), so that it looks farther away.
- If you are drawing an insect or other small animal, fill only half of one sheet of paper. (You may use the other half to draw a plant where it might live.)
- Here are some examples:

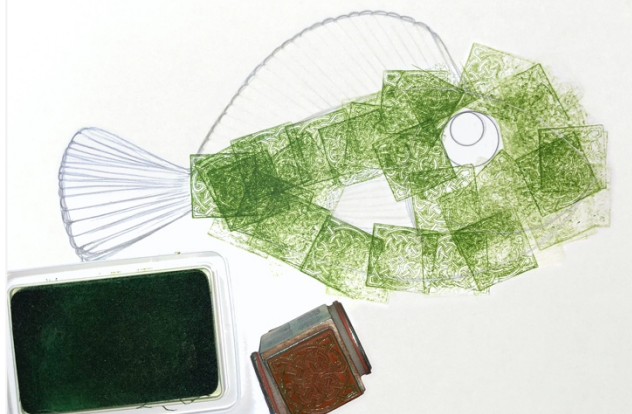


# Step 3

Think of how you will imitate Leo Lionni's textures and colors to create your animal.

- Underpainting with a patterned rubber stamp and ink pad can be fun.
- Stamping tempera paint onto your animal with a sponge, cork, or stiff bristled paintbrush can create interesting textures.
- The watercolor resist technique can produce interesting textures, as well.
  - Make designs with oil pastel.
  - Then paint over the top with watercolor paint.
  - Watercolor paint will not stick to the oil pastel the same way it sticks to paper.
- Don't worry too much about staying inside the lines.

Rubber stamp



Sponge + tempera



Oil pastel



# Step 4

- Paint with watercolor over rubber stamp patterns, being careful to use a light enough paint color to let the patterns show through.
- You may use a Sharpie marker to bring out fine detail over sponged-on tempera, once it has dried.
- Paint with watercolor over oil pastel (watercolor resist).
- Notice how in these examples the paint is sometimes outside of the outline.

Watercolor paint over  
rubber stamp pattern



Sharpie for details over  
sponged-on tempera

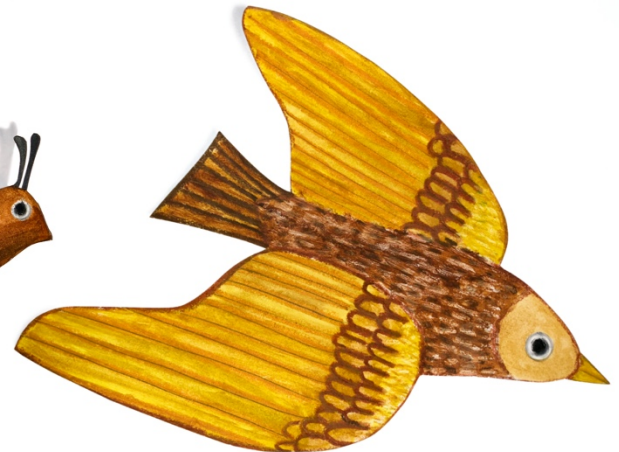
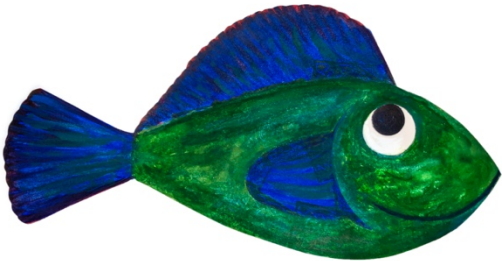


Watercolor paint  
over oil pastel



# Step 5

- Once the paint has dried enough, carefully cut out your animal. Take your time.
- If the paint is too wet, cutting may have to happen at a later date.
- Check to see if your name is still on the back, after you finish cutting.
- Fast finishers can paint elements of the landscape like flowers, trees, tall grass, snowy mountain peaks, or whatever their animal might like to have in their environment. These elements will add interest to the mural.

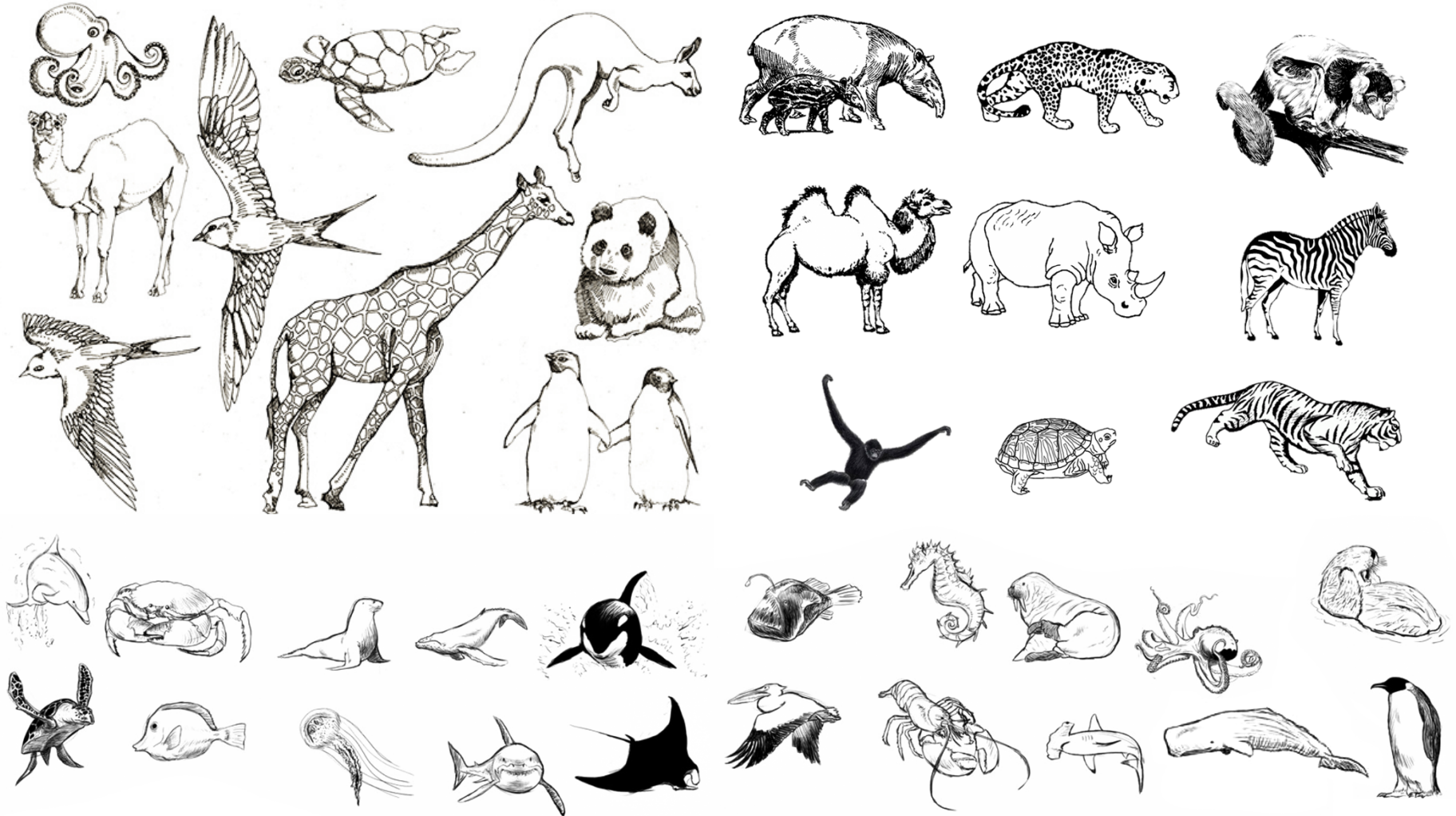


## Step 6

Once most of the animals and plants are dry and cut out, the class can work together with the docent or teacher to assemble the mural. Keep in mind the size of each animal while stapling them to the backdrop.



# Animal Inspiration



# Reflection

- What did you enjoy about working together as a class to create the mural?
- What was your favorite way to create texture in your animal?
- What do you think of the final result?
- Would anyone like to share their animal?



# Credits

1. Leo Lionni's page on Random House  
<http://www.rhcbooks.com/authors/17763/leo-lionni/>
2. More about Leo Lionni [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo\\_Lionni](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_Lionni)
3. List of Caldecott medals and honors since 1938  
<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecotthonors/caldecottmedal>
4. On slide 16, "[\*Animal Drawings\*](#)" by Abigail Daker is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND 4.0](#).
5. On slide 16, "Function Zoo" by [Edward Nordin Zuber](#) is licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License](#).
6. On slide 16, "20 sea animals" by SugaryAshes on Deviant Art is licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 License](#)
7. Original LWSD sample art, used with permission.