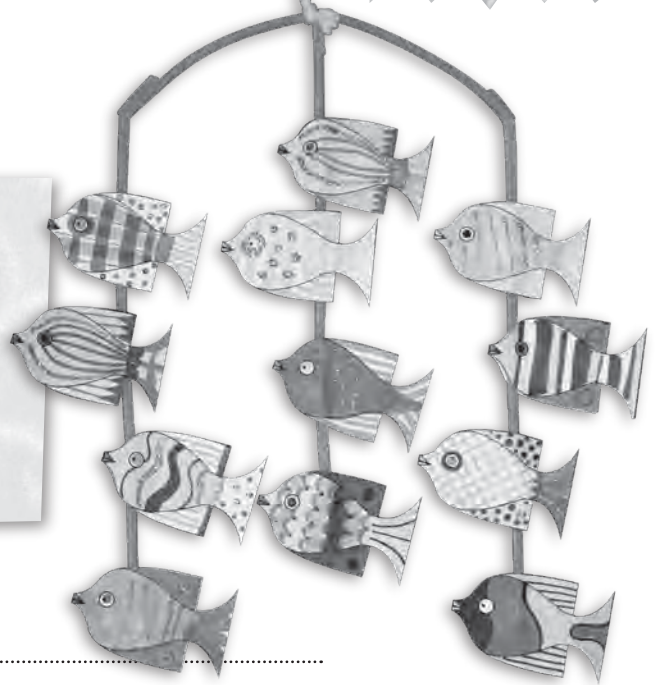


Fish Mobile

The underwater world of fish is full of variety and color. For protection, small fish often swim close together in groups, or schools, so they appear to be one large fish. The fish in this mobile move in a school—they all swim in the same direction and dart away together when danger appears!




Materials

For each child:


 fish pattern (page 74)

For each mobile:

 four 12-inch pipe cleaners

 24-inch length of yarn

Other materials:

 crayons and markers

 glitter glue

 scissors

 glue stick

Tip

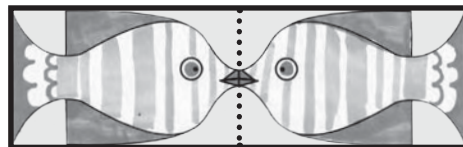
For best results, use twelve fish on a single mobile. If desired, have children make several fish each to add to the mobiles.

What to Do

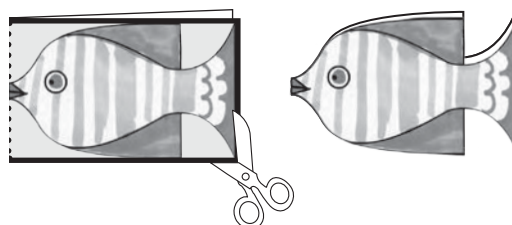
Make a copy of the pattern for each child. Pass out the materials. Then demonstrate the following steps.

Fish

1 Use crayons, markers, and glitter glue to decorate a fish pattern, creating a mirror image on the two sides of the fish.



2 Fold the fish pattern in half on the dotted line. Cut out the fish, cutting through both layers.



Write About It!

The books listed below provide a great springboard for writing poems about fish. Use the colors, patterns, and fascinating features of the fish in these books to inspire children to write descriptive poetry about the creatures of the deep blue sea. To help get children started, you might model a variety of poetry formats, from couplets to free verse.

Nonfiction Literature Links

Fish Faces
by Norbert Wu
(Henry Holt and Company, 1997).

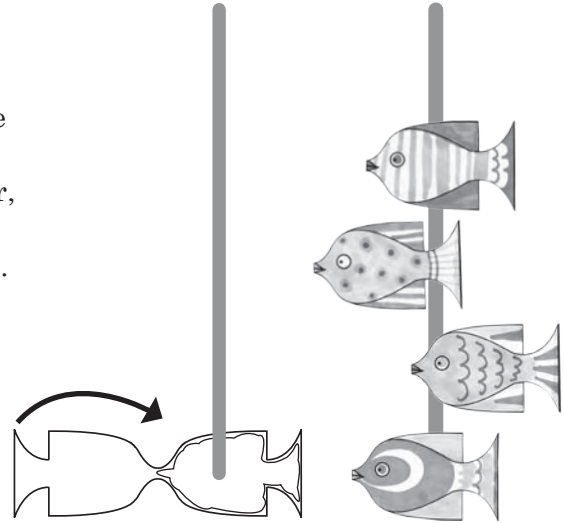
Celebrate fish through the rhythmic text and breathtaking photos of this inspiring book.

Hello, Fish!: Visiting the Coral Reef
by Sylvia A. Earle
(National Geographic Society, 1999).
A marine biologist introduces readers to twelve fascinating fish—each presented with lines of poetry, informative text, and a full-page photo.

Mobile

3 Decide how many fish you want to use to make a mobile. Then decide how many will be displayed on each of the three pipe cleaners that will be used to hold the fish (four fish per pipe cleaner work well). Collect the fish from children.

4 Unfold each fish and apply glue to one side of the inside. Then fold the two sides of the fish together, trapping the pipe cleaner between the sides, as shown. Attach the first fish to the bottom of each pipe cleaner and work upward to add others. Leave the top three inches of each pipe cleaner free.



5 To make the top support bar of the mobile, bend the ends of the fourth pipe cleaner to form a hook at each end. Then loop the top end of a fish-filled pipe cleaner through each hook and bend the tip to keep it in place. Hook the last fish-filled pipe cleaner over the center of the top support bar. To make a hanger, tie one end of the yarn to the center of the mobile. Then suspend the mobile so that it moves freely.

Gently blow on the mobile to make the school of fish swim about!

