

Gyotaku- Japanese Fish Printing Activity

Fish Printing Supplies

- Tempera paint
- Cloth flags or paper
- Plastic or paper plates
- paint trays
- brushes, foam, or cotton ball
- plastic table cloths
- Rubber or real fish
- Apron
- Rinse cups

Tips: The history of Gyotaku (ghe-you-tak-ew) comes from Japan when fisherman wanted to record their trophy catches before the invention of photography. Gyo means fish, taku means impression. They would originally use rice paper and ink with brushes. Check out this great [video](#) that reviews the history of Gyotaku.

Procedure

1. Lay down a protective layer such as news paper or a plastic tablecloth.
2. Place a variety of paint into tray and prep a water cup.
3. Fish is placed on plastic or paper plate (if using a real fish, make sure it is thawed and dry).
4. Paint whatever design you would like to do! Can be realistic or colorful fun. Too much paint will cause the transfer to be smeared and blurry, but if not enough paint the image might not come through clearly. Experiment with different colors, patterns, and designs!
5. Keep fish on plate, when you are ready to imprint place flag or piece of paper on top of fish and gently pat/rub the fish. Lift cloth straight. Be cautious with the wet paint!
6. Fish can be rinsed and reused.