

The Great Wave

Look closely, analyse, then respond to a famous print.



NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____

LEARNING GOAL

Analyse an artist's choices, then respond with my own ideas.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

- ☐ I can describe the print using art words.
- ☐ I can explain how a woodblock print is made.
- ☐ I can explain an artist's choices and use one.

1 Meet the artwork

Gallery 1

2 First look

Gallery 2

3 marks



Study after Hokusai: a simple line study, not the original

Katsushika Hokusai

The Great Wave off Kanagawa

About 1831 · Colour woodblock print on paper

From the series "Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji". One of the best-known Japanese prints.

CLASS CATALOGUE

NO. 012.1

Look quietly for one minute first.

A I SEE Only what is there.

B I THINK What is happening, and why?

C I WONDER Ask the artist a question.

3 The formal elements

Gallery 3

6 marks

1 LINE Where are the curving lines? Are any lines sharp?

2 SHAPE Compare the shape of the wave and the mountain.

3 COLOUR Look at the real print. Which colours do you see?

4 TONE Where are the lightest and the darkest parts?

5 TEXTURE How does the artist make the water look rough?

6 COMPOSITION Mount Fuji is small. How do you still find it?



How it was made, and why

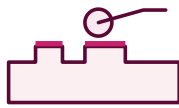
4 How a woodblock print is made

Archive

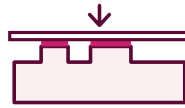
TECHNIQUE FILE



No. 1 Carve. The design is carved into a block of wood.



No. 2 Ink. Ink goes onto the raised parts of the block.



No. 3 Press. Paper is pressed onto the block, so the inked parts print.



No. 4 Colour. A separate block is used for each colour.

5 The artist's choices

Gallery 4

6 marks

a Why do you think Hokusai made Mount Fuji so small?

b How does the huge wave make you feel about the rowers?

c Why must a print artist plan every line before carving?

6 Inspired by the wave

Studio

5 marks

Your brief: draw something huge and near, and something small and far away.

HUGE, NEAR

SMALL, FAR

One idea I borrow from Hokusai, and why:



GO FURTHER

Shade in three tones only, as if you had three blocks.

YOUR SKETCH