

Exploring Your World in Blue

Inspired by the Exhibition *Between Sea and Sky*

This activity will guide you in the exploration of everyday objects around your home through the creation of paintings or drawings using only the color blue. This activity is inspired by the exhibition *Between Sea and Sky: Blue and White Ceramics from Persia and Beyond* on view through May 31, 2021.

Time: 15–30 minutes

Difficulty level: Easy

Messy level: Low



To view an image of this work, visit the [MFAH Collection online database](#).

Investigate the Work of Art!

1. Look at this ceramic object. Pay specific attention to the imagery painted on it. What about this decorative image is realistic and what seems more imaginary?
2. Blue and white porcelain dishes, like this one from the Ming dynasty, were highly valued. Why do you think artists from China, Iran, Turkey, and India would all choose to depict these scenes in only blues and white?
3. Many blue and white ceramics depict plants, buildings, animals, and people all in shades of blue painted on a white background. What is something in real life that you would love to see in blue?

Let's Make Some Art!

Gather These Art Materials

- White or light-colored heavy paper or cardstock
- Blue crayons, blue markers, blue colored pencils, or blue paint
- Small paintbrush
- Paper towels
- Water and water cup

Step-by-Step Artist Instructions

1. Find a clear spot at home with a hard surface to work on.
2. Find three to five objects of different colors from around your home.
3. Draw or paint the objects, paying close attention to how you can incorporate different textures with crosshatching and scribbles, dark blue shadows, and light blue highlights.
4. For an additional challenge, try to draw or paint a picture of a person using only the color blue!

Above: Chinese, *Dish*, 1700–1720, hard-paste porcelain, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Bayou Bend Collection, gift of Miss Ima Hogg, B.49.4.

Between Sea and Sky: Blue and White Ceramics from Persia and Beyond is organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

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