

Messy Maps

OVERVIEW

Students will create their own maps using watercolor and oil pastels. This project is inspired by the works of Jacob Dwight.

STANDARDS

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What is a map?

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students Will:

- learn about topography maps
- create their own maps

STANDARDS

Fourth Grade: Arts Education

- 1) Individually brainstorm multiple approaches to an art problem.
- 12) Interpret art by referring to contextual information and analyzing relevant subject matter, visual qualities, and use of media.

Fourth Grade: Science

- 15) Analyze and interpret data (e.g., angle of slope in downhill movement of water, volume of water flow, cycles of freezing and thawing of water, cycles of heating and cooling of water, speed of wind, relative rate of soil deposition, amount of vegetation) to determine effects of weathering and rate of erosion by water, ice, wind, and

vegetation using one single form of weathering or erosion at a time.

- 16) Describe patterns of Earth's features on land and in the ocean using data from maps (e.g., topographic maps of Earth's land and ocean floor; maps of locations of mountains, continental boundaries, volcanoes, and earthquakes).

ART DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- Topography
- Would you consider making maps as an art?
- The importance of topography maps
- Dwight's love for science has contributed to his art. Do you think science has a place in art? Why?

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jakob Dwight was born in Mobile, Alabama. His mother is a doctor of speech pathology and his father is a computer scientist. His early interest in art was influenced by the pottery his mother collected.

Dwight has exhibited nationally and internationally since the mid 2000s, presenting work in group shows in New York and Atlanta in the United States, and Salzburg and Vienna, Austria. In the early 2010s his work was featured in Berlin and Kassel, Germany, and in Los Angeles and New York (where he participated in the New York Electronic Arts Festival in 2013).

Most recently, Dwight contributed an essay to the catalog for Thornton Dial: I Too Am Alabama in 2022 and talked about his work with fellow Alabama artist Richard Dial in an online discussion hosted by the Wiregrass Museum of Art during the exhibition I, Too, Am Thornton Dial. New paintings were included in a group show titled Anyone Can Move A Mountain at Maus Contemporary in Birmingham, which featured artwork by all the artist contributors to the Thornton Dial catalog. That exhibition led directly to Dwight's first Alabama solo exhibition, Various Analysands, also at Maus Contemporary earlier this year. A Trillion Verses is curated by Paul Barrett, and marks Dwight's first solo museum exhibition in Alabama.

CURRICULUM CONTENT

LEARN ABOUT A TRILLION VERSES

"A Trillion Verses is an ode to the evolution of naturalism and structured human observation (better known as science) from the first human beings to now, visual letters through time to the first artists and observers...an offering to the Human Super-organism, evolutionary biology's description of our being a hive species, innately and ultimately for one another.

"A Trillion Verses references scale, complexity, and the difficulty in truly understanding the immensity of things – time, geology, space and celestial bodies, distances, populations, the human genome for instance.

"Additionally, the works in the show mark a return to my training in painting after spending the last 24 years as a digital artist. So the title also refers to the lines of code beneath the thousands of images that were created through generative processes over the years, but ultimately ending in my resuming analog and ancient mark-making in the forms of drawing and painting. This shift coincides with many of us in society beginning to rethink how useful digital life continues to be for our daily lives."



Messy Maps

ART INSTRUCTION

MATERIALS

watercolor paper, oil pastels, Pencils, water cup and brushes

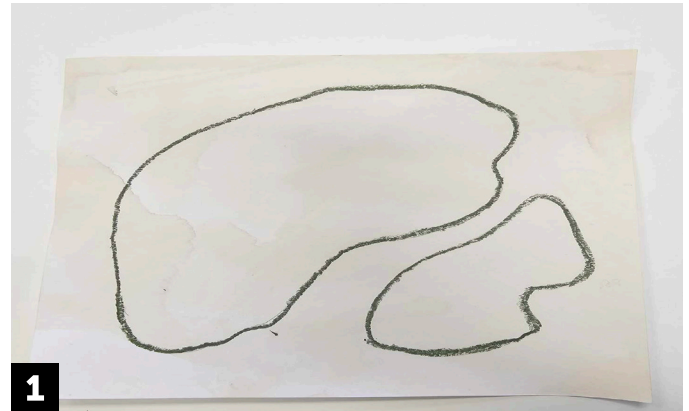
INSTRUCTIONS

1 Begin the activity by drawing organic shapes on the watercolor paper. Recommend at 1-2 shapes.

2 Use the map symbols to create your own country or island. Once you are finished drawing, color your symbols using oil pastels.

3 Use watercolor to paint your map.

4 Once finished, have your students discuss their maps!



MAP SYMBOLS

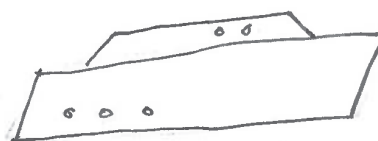
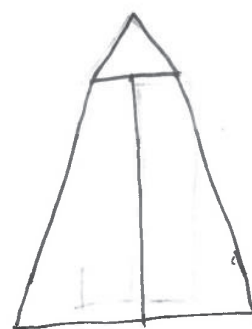
Volcanoes



Creatures

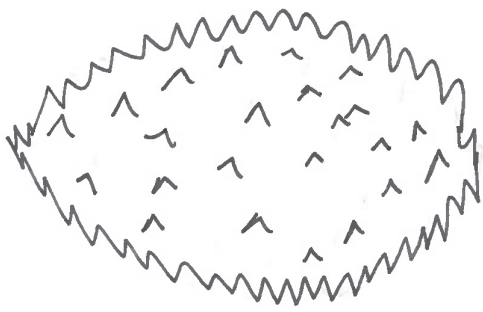


Ships/Houses

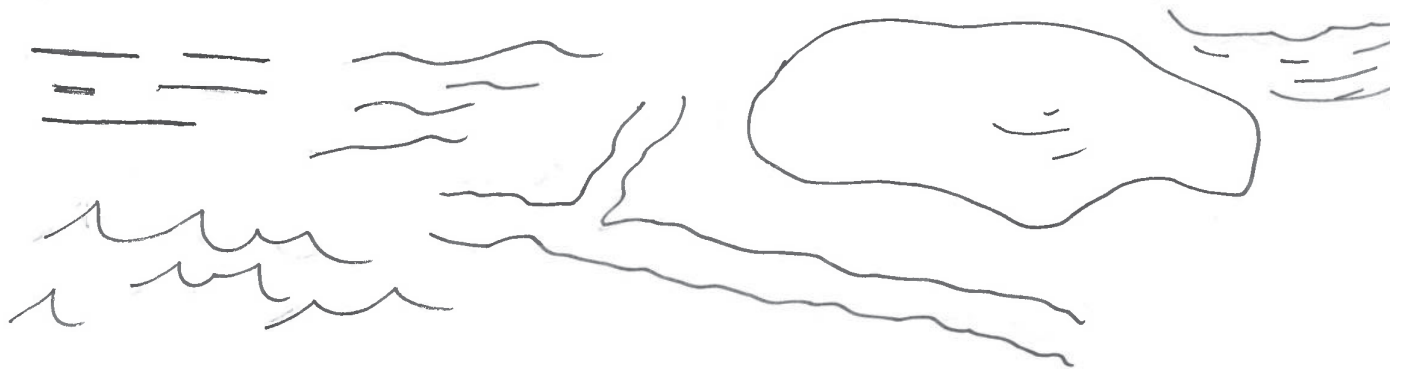


MAP SYMBOLS

Forests/Grasslands



Lakes/Rivers



Mountains/cliffs/clouds



TERMS

TOPOGRAPHY -study of the forms and features of land surfaces. The topography of an area may refer to the land forms and features themselves, or a description or depiction in maps.

SYMBOLS - marks, signs, or words that represent another idea, object, or relationship.

POLITICAL MAP - a map that shows the locations of the world's countries, major cities, and their borders

RELIEF MAP - a map that uses a gradient of colors to show landforms on Earth's surface

EXPAND

LINK TO VIDEO GUIDES

