

# Calder's Wire Fish

## Project Description:

Students will be creating a wire fish sculpture in the style of Alexander Calder's work.

## Project Rational:

The idea behind this project is to familiarize and inspire students with the work of Alexander Calder. This lesson will give students a hands on approach to creating the way Calder had for his artwork.

## Objectives:

Students will learn about the work of Alexander Calder and apply that to their own work. Students will be able to answer questions asked to show some understanding of Calder and his work.

## Materials:

- ~Colored Wire
- ~Beads
- ~Buttons
- ~String
- ~ Handout of all kinds of fish and creatures found in the ocean

Motivation: ~Teacher made example/visual

~Questioning

~Vocabulary:

- Hanging Mobile
- Sculpture
- Wire Sculpture

## Procedure:

- ~Students are informed about the class activities for that day and shown examples of Alexander Calder's work.
- ~The students are told that their work will be hung up as an under water aquarium, for others to learn what they have learned about the work of Alexander Calder.
- ~Students are then shown the teacher generated example of the Calder like fish mobile, and told that they will be creating a similar work of art.
- ~Wire and cups of beads are passed out to the class.
- ~Once everyone in the class has their materials, I show them step by stem how to create their fish.
  - First I give a brief demonstration of the task at hand of creating a wire fish sculpture.
  - The students will then create the sculpture themselves starting with bending the wire in the shape of a circle and twist the two ends together to complete the circle.

- Then we will bend one end of the circle in and pinch down to form the back fins of the fish.
- Once the fish has a basic outline, I show the students about adding stripes to our fish with wire and beads.
- Take one piece of wire and attach it to the top of the body of the fish. Once the wire is twisted on there, hold it up and add some beads. Once all the beads you want are attached, flip the bottom of the fish up and twist the wire on the fish's belly.
- Now students will take a piece of wire and a colorful button and attach/twist that on for the eye of the fish.
- Students are given a piece of tape that they will attach to their fish and put their name on it. (20 min)

~Clean up consists of picking up wire pieces and returning them to the box and dumping the cups of beads back into the main bead bucket. (4 min)

~The class does a quick whip around and present their wire fish sculpture to the class.

~Students are asked what they think about their classmate's projects and their own as well.

Closer questions are asked when students are lining up at the door. (6 min)

What did Calder's father and grandfather do as far as artwork?

What was Calder famous for inventing?

What are the different types of mobiles?