

Weaving Rainbow Fish Craft

Great for ages 7-10

The ocean is a treasure chest of colours! Looking at a coral reef, you'll see fish of every colour! Look up some nature documentaries on your favourite streaming site and watch them together, you might find a new favourite fish! This craft is customizable, and your child can use whatever colours they want.

It can be a great way for your kids to get artistic too! Lots of fish and other animals have a darker top and a lighter bottom. This is called countershading and helps them blend into the ocean as they swim around. Have your kids practice shading the paper strips in this craft to both develop their artistic abilities and emulate countershading at home!

Materials Needed:

- White Paper
- Scissors
- Googly eyes (or one made from paper)
- Strips of coloured paper
- Glue



RAINBOW WEAVING FISH CRAFT



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Steps:

- Draw out a fish and cut it out of the white paper
- Fold the fish's body in half and cut strips into the body to weave
- Cut out strips of coloured construction paper to weave in
- Glue on the googly eye if you have it, or make one out of paper (dark circle on large white circle), or draw one on with a marker
- Carefully, have your child weave the strips of paper through the slits in an alternating, over under pattern.
- If you have any scrap paper from this craft or another, glue those one as well to the fish as decoration on the tail or head!

Tips:

- The pattern of the fish scales is called cross hatching, look online for other ways to use crosshatching around the home!
- Did you know most fish camouflage in plain side with their scales? It's called countershading! The top half is darker, and the bottom is lighter. So, when another creature looks down, the dark top matches the darker bottom of the ocean. Same holds true with a creature looking up to the lighter bottom to the top of the ocean.
 - Tell this to your kids and have them practice shading! Using their pencil crayons lightly, they can make one part of the strip darker, emulating countershading at home!
 - Also, look at what other animals utilize countershading! Hint, some of them live on land as well!

Sources: <https://www.craftymorning.com/weaving-rainbow-fish-kids-craft/>

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