

Gina Mikel-K(life cycles) Space Lesson Plan

Supplies:

white paper
watercolor pencils
small paint brushes
water cups
paper towels
black cardstock
glue

Biography:

Gina Mikel is a scientific illustrator. She is married and has two children. She has lived in Austin Texas, Florida and Chicago but currently lives in St Louis on several acres next to a state nature preserve. She draws pictures of plants and animals for museums, magazines, and science centers. She usually uses colored pencils or watercolors.

Discussion:

- What is space? the empty area around and within an object
- Describe positive and negative space. positive space is the object, negative space is the empty area around the object, or the background.
- Which do you see more of positive or negative space?
- Does the artwork look flat or dimensional?
- Discuss the lifecycle of a frog with the students.

Lesson Plan:

- Using the watercolor pencils the students should draw the outlines of eggs, a tadpole and a frog in different areas of the paper. The students may also draw a lily pad if they want.
- They should then carefully dip the paintbrush into the water and "color" the pictures that they drew. The pencil lines will blend together and create a nice painting. Be careful not to use too much water.
- Mount their pictures on the black construction paper.