

**Masterpiece:**

*Sinbad the Sailor*, 1923

Size: 34.5 cm. x 50 cm

Media: pencil, watercolor, gouache  
on cardboard

**Artist:**

Paul Klee, 1879-1940

**Project:**

Underwater Scene

## KEY CONCEPTS

Style: Seascape  
Realism/ Abstract

Line: Expressive  
Jagged/ Angular

Design: Pattern/ Repetition

Color: Contrast  
Shape: Rectangle/ Square

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

- Born in Switzerland and studied art in Germany.
- Painted in 1923 between wars that killed many of his friends.
- His style is Expressionism and Abstract.
- He loved children's art for its innocence and directness.
- His art has a childlike style.
- Used letters and numbers into his paintings to combine abstraction and reality.

## CONCEPTS

Style:

- Seascape
- Realism/Abstract

Design:

Pattern

Repetition

Line:

- Expressive
- Jagged/Angular

Diagonal

Horizontal/Vertical

Color:

- Contrast

Primary/Secondary

Shape:

Rectangle/Square

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR KEY CONCEPTS

**Is Sinbad hunting the monsters or are the monsters attacking Sinbad?**

In this seascape, Sinbad, the sailor encounters giant sea monsters and defends himself with bravery and a long, sharp spear. He appears to be attacking the sea monsters as he leans into the giant wave and pushing them back with his spear. Paul Klee tells the story in the style called Expressionism, where things aren't always what they seem.

**How does Paul Klee make this scary story seem fun?**

Klee painted this scary attack using bright colors and abstract, or simplified figures.

**What makes Sinbad and the water abstract?**

We recognize the shapes of the fish, the sailor, and the boat, but they don't look realistic. The diamond patterns and round shapes make the fish look like clown fish.

**Where do diagonal lines show action?**

The diagonal line of Sinbad's body and the fish give a feeling of movement and show the struggle between Sinbad and the monsters.

**What lines make the fish look scary?**

The jagged lines of the fishes' teeth look sharp. Expressive lines and colors make the fish seem threatening. The angular lines of the boat, spear, and fish create a feeling of danger.

**What colors make the monsters look scary?**

The red drops of blood, the red spear, and the repeated red patterns in the fish, the man's legs, and the boat show the excitement of the struggle. The cool blue water and background contrast with the bright colors. The light colors of the wave and the fish contrast with the dark ocean and focus our attention on the dangers of the deep, dark sea.

**Where do shapes create patterns?**

Repeated rectangles and squares give rhythm to the background water and sky. Their pattern shows movement as it swells to create a big wave that may swallow the little boat. Repeated triangles and diamonds decorate the sea monsters and Sinbad's clothes. The jagged points of triangles on the monsters' teeth, bodies, and Sinbad's boat add a feeling of danger. The pointed spear and boat threaten the big fish.

## MATERIALS

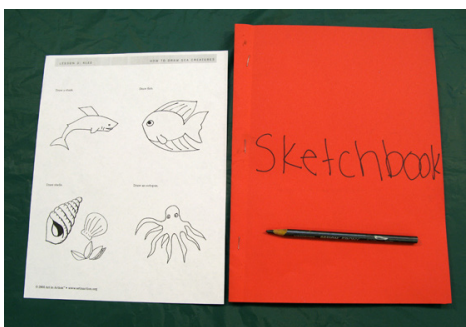
- sketchbooks
- 11x16 fingerprint paper
- drawing pencils
- liquid starch
- palettes
- color wheel
- tempera paint: blue, red, yellow, green
- wipes
- How to Draw Sea Creatures

## SETUP

- Cover work surfaces with newspaper.
- Set out sketchbooks, drawing pencils, and How to Draw Sea Creatures guides.
- Have ready 11x16 fingerprint paper, starch, and blue tempera.
- Have ready palettes with about 1 teaspoon each red, yellow, and green tempera. Refill as needed.
- Have ready buckets of water and damp paper towels and sponges for wiping up spills and cleaning fingers.
- Have ready newspaper for drying fingerprintings.

## TIPS

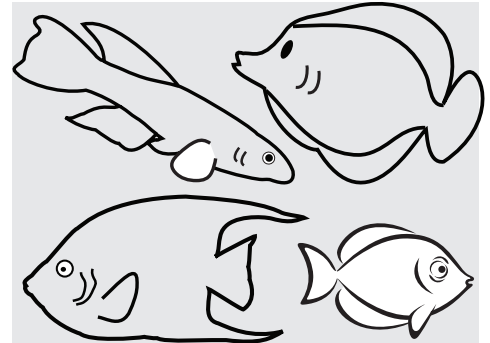
- Write students' names on backs papers before getting them wet.
- Use a different finger for each color.
- Don't add too much color.
- Move fingerprinting to dry newspaper when finished.



## PROJECT: UNDERWATER SCENE

**Sketch:**

1. Sketch fish shapes using geometric shapes. Use How to Draw Sea Creatures guide.
2. Sketch realistic and abstract sea creatures and seaweed.

**Project:**

1. Spread 2 tablespoons of starch across paper.
2. Spread blue paint on the paper.
3. Fingerpaint an expressive seascape with jagged lines. Add waves with fingertips and fingernails.
4. Draw a large fish. Oval for body, filling center of paper. Add scales, fins, gills.
5. Draw more sea creatures.
6. Draw seaweed and other water plants. Paint thin, thick, straight and curving strands of seaweed.
7. Create patterns on fish with repeating v or u shapes for scales. Observe the effect different shapes have on the expression of the fish. Are they playful or angry?
8. Add contrasting dabs of color to the seascape.

