

Subject: Art & Design.

Spring Year 4.

Unit: Exploring Painting Still Life

Focus: Tint, Shade and Still Life Composition

Artist Focus: Clara Peeters

National Curriculum Links (Painting – KS2)

- Develop painting techniques, including control and precision when applying paint.
- Use colour, tone and shade to represent objects and depth.
- Create compositions inspired by real objects and still life arrangements.
- Improve mastery of painting techniques, including mixing colours to create tints and shades.
- Learn about great artists and understand how their work can influence their own.

Expected Prior Learning (what pupils already know and can do)

Pupils will have:

- Used paint to create marks and patterns.
- Mixed primary colours to create secondary colours.
- Practised blending colours to create gradients.
- Painted simple landscapes or silhouettes.
- Discussed artwork by artists and described colour choices.

This unit builds on these skills by developing colour control using tints and shades, observational painting, and understanding composition in still life work.

End Goals (Know That / Know How)

Know that:

- A tint is made by adding white to a colour.
- A shade is made by adding black to a colour.
- Artists use tone, tint and shade to show light and shadow.
- A still life painting shows carefully arranged objects.
- Artists like Clara Peeters created detailed still life paintings showing food and objects.

Know how to:

- Mix paint to create tints and shades.
- Use tone to show light and shadow on objects.
- Arrange objects to create a balanced still life composition.
- Observe objects carefully and paint their shapes and colours.
- Create a still life painting using tints, shades and thoughtful composition.

Key Vocabulary:

Colour & Tone: tint, shade, tone, highlight, shadow

Technique: blend, mix, layer, brush control

Art Language: still life, composition, foreground, background

Medium Term Plan Overview

Session 1 – Exploring Painting Techniques

Kapow Link: Year 4 Painting – Lesson 1

Learning Objective: Explore painting techniques and brush control.

Activities: Experiment with brush strokes, layering, and mark making using different brushes.

Assessment Focus: Uses brushes with control and experiments with paint application.

Session 2 – Colour Mixing and Paint Effects

Kapow Link: Year 4 Painting – Lesson 2

Learning Objective: Develop colour mixing and blending skills.

Activities: Review primary and secondary colours, mix colours and create colour samples.

Assessment Focus: Mixes colours with increasing control and demonstrates blending techniques.

Session 3 – Artist Study: Clara Peeters

Learning Objective: Explore still life painting through the work of an artist.

Activities: Study paintings by Clara Peeters. Discuss objects, detail and arrangement. Introduce tints and shades and practise mixing colours with white and black.

Assessment Focus: Understands tint and shade and recognises still life composition.

Session 4 – Creating a Still Life Study

Learning Objective: Paint objects from observation using tint and shade.

Activities: Arrange simple still life objects such as fruit, bowls or cups. Pupils sketch and then paint the objects focusing on light, shadow and tone.

Assessment Focus: Uses observation and attempts to show shadow using shade.

Session 5 – Planning a Still Life Composition

Learning Objective: Design a balanced still life composition.

Activities: Pupils arrange their own objects, sketch their composition and begin painting using tint and shade.

Assessment Focus: Plans composition carefully and begins applying tone in painting.

Session 6 – Final Still Life Painting

Learning Objective: Complete a still life painting using tint, shade and composition.

Activities: Finish painting, refine shadows and highlights, and evaluate work inspired by Clara Peeters.

Assessment Focus: Uses tint and shade effectively and produces a balanced still life painting.

Links to Future Learning

- Painting skills: develops colour control and tonal painting needed for more advanced painting in KS2.
- Observation: builds skills for detailed still life and portrait work.
- Composition: prepares pupils to plan and organise their own artwork.
- Artist study: strengthens ability to analyse how artists use colour, tone and arrangement.

Differentiation

Support: limited colour palette, simple objects, teacher modelling.

Challenge: more complex compositions, stronger shadow and highlight control, layered painting techniques.

Resources

Sketchbooks, pencils, charcoal, paints, brushes, palettes, water pots, large paper, reference images of prehistoric art, Beatrix Potter, and George Stubbs