

## Sketching the sea

School Session Overview  
October 2025

Key information	
<p><b>Length of session:</b> 90 mins</p> <p><b>Key Stage:</b> KS2</p> <p><b>Location(s) of session:</b> Queen's House Galleries</p>	
Learning objectives	Curriculum links
<p>Learners will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop their observational drawing skills</li> <li>experiment with mark making to build light, shadow and texture</li> <li>create their own art inspired by a spectacular collection</li> </ul>	<p>KS2 Art and History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decode artwork equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design.</li> </ul>
Key words	
Sketching, Seascape, Art, Expression	
Overview of the session	
<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Learners are introduced to the Queen's House art gallery, the Van de Veldes and the art they created.</p> <p><b>Activity 1: Mark making</b></p> <p>In a gallery surrounded by seascapes, learners use pencils and paper provided to experiment with mark making to convey water, mist and smoke.</p> <p><b>Gallery Tour</b></p> <p>Learners look at more paintings around the gallery, examining how different artists have portrayed water in all its forms.</p> <p><b>Colour and Seascapes</b></p> <p>Using different colours of paper and a selection of colouring pencils, learners respond to their chosen seascape in the 'Seascape and War Art' room.</p> <p><b>Plenary</b></p> <p>An opportunity to share their own artwork if they choose and ask questions.</p>	
Suggested pre visit knowledge / activities	Suggested post visit activities
Discuss how artists use sketches, studies and different techniques to achieve different outcomes. Encourage learners to think of the gallery not only as a place to view finished works, but also as a source of inspiration and a springboard for their own creative process.	Learners could revisit their experimental drawings and mark-making. Ask them to select one artwork or at least one technique they found inspiring and work up into a more finished sea inspired piece, just as artists refine studio sketches into paintings.

<b>Links to useful resources</b>
<a href="#">Art guide of Queen's House   Royal Museums Greenwich</a> <a href="#">Van de Velde Art Lesson   Royal Museum Greenwich</a> <a href="#">Analysing and interpreting an artwork.pdf</a> <a href="#">Sea Drawings Van de Veldes   Royal Museums Greenwich</a>