

Moving Figures

Simplified figures in motion offer an opportunity to explore tints and tones as well as learning more about the human body.

Materials

- Digital camera or newspapers
- Cartridge paper
- Thin card
- Tracing paper (optional)
- Sharp pencil
- Ready mixed paint – primary colours, black & white
- Brushes and water.

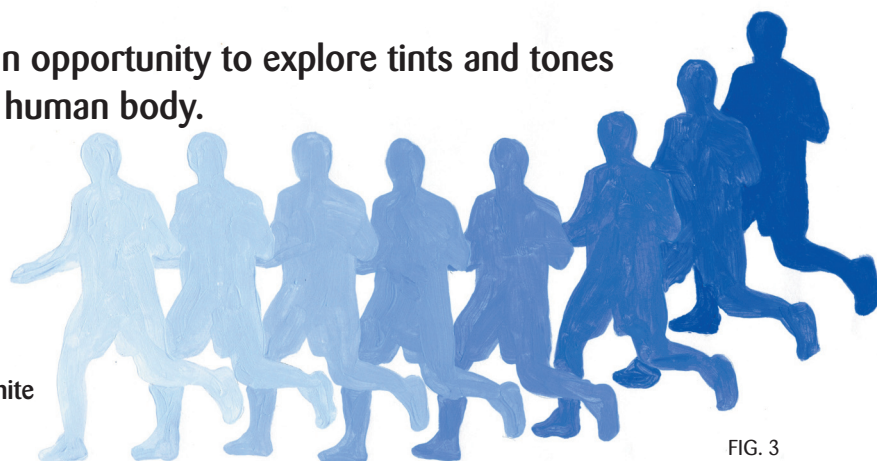


FIG. 3

Method

- Take photos of the class during a PE lesson indoors or use newspaper photos of sports people in action. The aim is to have a photo of a figure in motion.
- Talk about the photo - are there parts of the body that can't be seen in that pose? Are limbs foreshortened? Discuss how the figure might look 2 minutes after the photo was taken - how might the pose be different?
- Draw or trace the figure onto thin card (outline only) and cut out.
- Starting at one side of the paper draw round the card figure (FIG. 1).
- Move the figure across the page making sure that the first figure will overlap the second. Draw round the card figure again stopping when you meet a line – it is important to make the second figure look like it is behind the first one (FIG. 2).
- Continue to move the card figure across the paper, drawing round it each time and ensuring that each one sits behind the previous figure. If desired the figures can be drawn in a line that undulates rather than staying straight. This adds to the visual impression of movement.
- Choose one of the primary colours and paint one of the figures at the edge of the page.
- Add a little white and paint the next figure. Keep adding white making the colour progressively lighter until the edge of the page is reached. These colours are called tints (FIG. 3).
- Alternatively add a little black each time making the figures darker. These colours are called tones.
- Keeping the figure simple allows the children to focus on colour mixing.

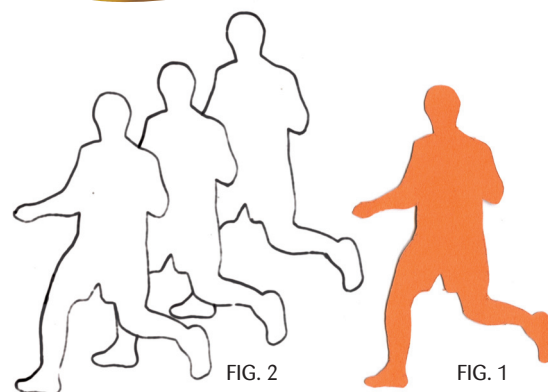
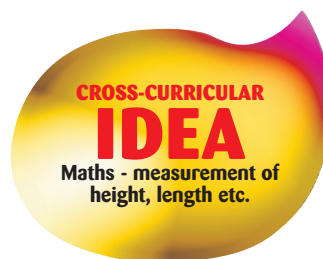


FIG. 2

FIG. 1

Taking it Further

Work on a very large scale by drawing round each child as they lay on paper (e.g. brown parcel paper) posed to suggest they are in mid-movement. Paint all the figures using a different tint and tone for each one then arrange the finished figures in a row so that they overlap. This creates a life-sized version of the original work and looks great along a corridor or long wall.

This activity extends previous work on colour mixing introducing tints and tones as well as consolidating work on brush control.