

Chapter 1

What is Water?

Pre-K – 5th grade

Chapter Objective

Students will use observation skills to explore water and artists' depictions of water. Using these observations students will answer the question, What is Water?

Supported Standards

[Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction / Standards for Science / 2017](#)

Science: Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCI) — Earth and Space Science 2 (ESS2) — Earth's Systems

Standard SCI.ESS2: Students use science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and an understanding of earth's systems to make sense of phenomena and solve problems.

[Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction / Standards for Art and Design / 2019](#)

Art and Design (AA)

Standard AA 1: CREATE—Students will generate, develop, and refine artistic work.

Standard AA 3: RESPOND—Students will critically interpret intent and meaning in order to evaluate artistic work. (1. Describe; 2. Analyze; 3. Interpret; 4. Inquire; or 5. Evaluate)



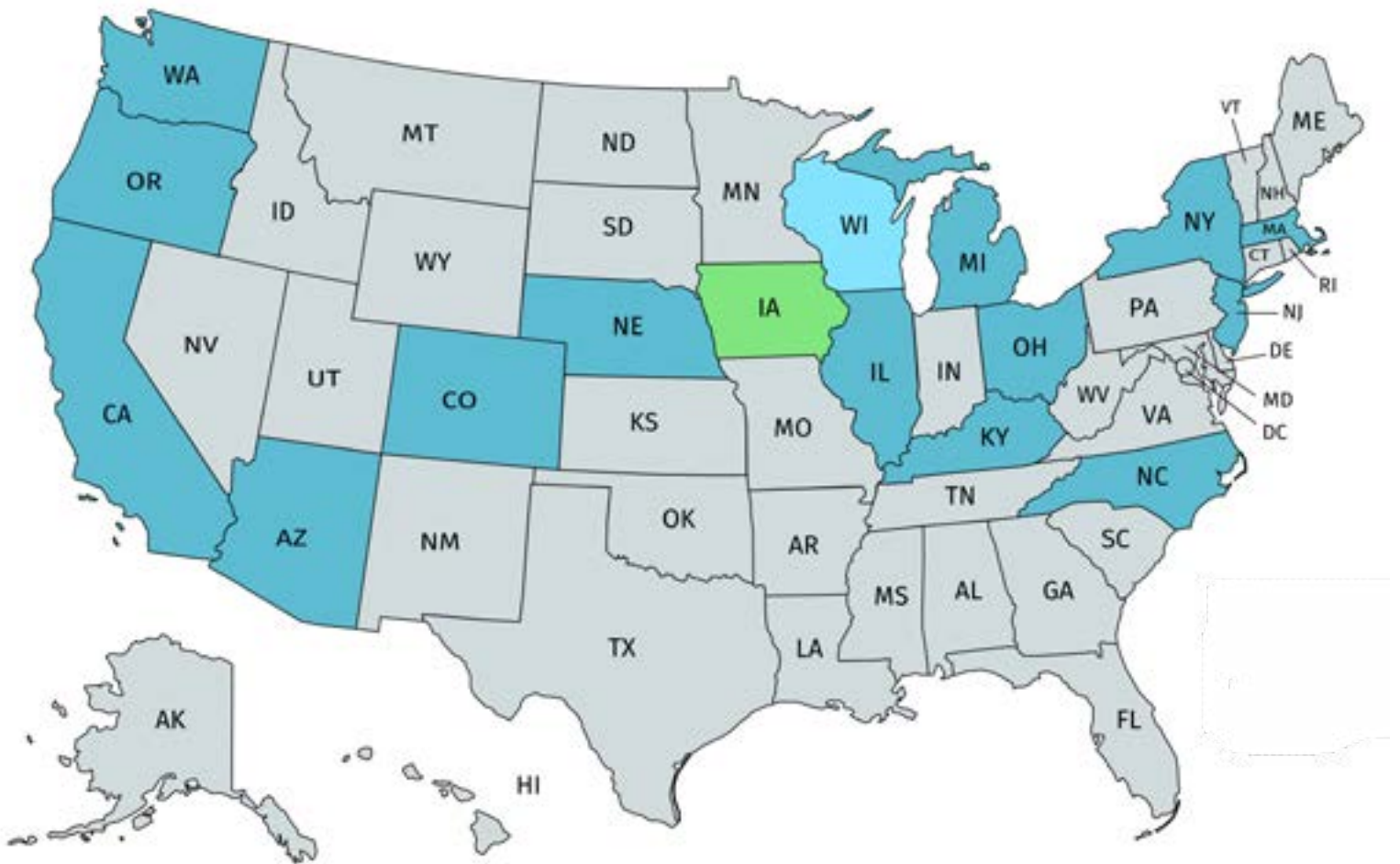
Kevin J. Miyazaki (American, b. 1966), [*Lake Michigan from Michigan City, Indiana*](#) (Perimeter series), 2012. Digital chromogenic color print, 24 x 30 in (60.96 x 76.2 cm). Gift of the artist, Collection of the Haggerty Museum of Art, Marquette University, 2014.8.11.



Kevin J. Miyazaki (American, b. 1966), *Earl and Charlese West in Whitting, Indiana*, (Perimeter series), 2012. Digital chromogenic color print, 24 x 20 in (60.96 x 50.8 cm). Gift of the artist, Collection of the Haggerty Museum of Art, Marquette University, 2014.8.5.

Art in Context

Use this map with your students to explore Kevin J. Miyazaki's life and work.




Where in the U.S.A. is Kevin Miyazaki's art?

■ Miyazaki earned a bachelor's degree in 1990 at Drake University.

■ Miyazaki lives in Milwaukee, WI.

"Perimeter was a project commissioned by the Haggerty Museum of Art at Marquette University, which invited me to create new work addressing the topic of fresh water and the Great Lakes." [Source](#)

 Learn more about the *Perimeter* series on the artist's website [here](#).

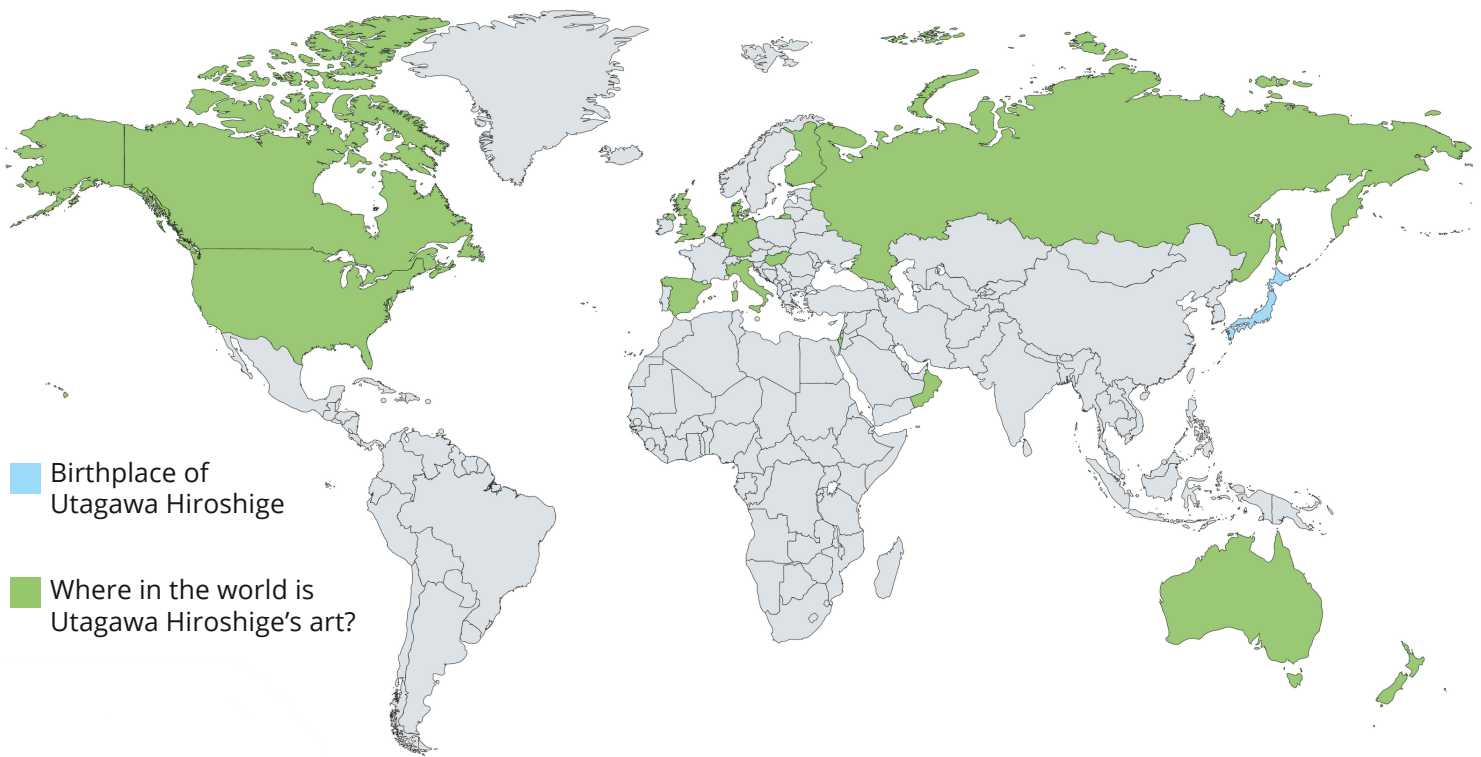
Artists make art in a variety of ways. Since photography and computer printing became the norm, portrait and landscape formatting is used to describe an artwork's [orientation](#). Often artwork featuring people is done in a portrait format, while artwork featuring land or sea is done in a landscape format. Look through the rest of the artworks in this resource guide — do the other artworks follow this “rule”?



Utagawa Hiroshige (Japanese, 1797 – 1858), [*Barges on the Yotsugi-dori Canal \(no. 33\)*](#) from [*One Hundred Famous Views of Edo*](#), 1856 - 1858. Woodblock print. Gift of Cava Ross Estate, Collection of the Haggerty Museum of Art, Marquette University, 88.8.6.3.

Art in Context

Use this map with your students to explore Utagawa Hiroshige's life and work.



Can you match the country name with the map above?

1. The Haggerty Museum of Art, Milwaukee, WI, U.S.A.
2. Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg, Russia
3. Prado Museum, Madrid, Spain
4. Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, Netherlands
5. Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
6. Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia
7. Christchurch Art Gallery / Te Puna O Waiwhetu, New Zealand
8. Victoria and Albert Museum, London, England
9. Hungarian National Gallery, Budapest, Hungary
10. Statens Museum for Kunst / National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark
11. Tikotin Museum of Japanese Art, Haifa, Israel
12. Valtion Taidemuseo / Finnish National Gallery, Helsinki, Finland
13. Wallraf Richartz Museum, Cologne, Germany
14. Scuderie del Quirinale exhibition, Rome, Italy



Watch this video to learn more about how Utagawa Hiroshige inspired a world of artists. Click [here](#).



Asako Narahashi (Japanese, b. 1959), [*Yunohama*](#), 2004. Chromogenic color print, 35 1/2 x 55 1/2 in (90.17 x 140.97 cm). Museum purchase with funds from Mrs. Martha W. Smith by exchange, Collection of the Haggerty Museum of Art, Marquette University, 2010.4.

Art in Context

Use this timeline with your students to explore Asako Narahashi's life and work.

Asako Narahashi was born in Tokyo, Japan, 1959.

Japanese event: Prince Akihito marries a commoner, Mishiko Shoda, in Japan on April 10, 1959.

One day in 2001 Narahashi went with some friends to visit the beach. "While I was swimming," she told an interviewer, "I happened to see my friends...on the beach. That was the very beginning." It was the beginning of a series of photographs that she would eventually title *half awake and half asleep in the water*. Shortly after her beach visit, Narahashi purchased a 35mm Nikonos waterproof camera.

Fun Fact: Nikon (which is headquartered in Tokyo, Japan) stopped making the Nikonos camera in 2001.

1959

Narahashi opens her independent photo gallery "03FOTOS" in Tokyo, Japan, with a solo exhibition of her work titled *Mata Yuku Hito (See you again)*.

1990

In 1968, Japan's economy became the second largest in the world, in a phenomenon known as the Economic Miracle. The day-to-day life of the average Tokyoite changed rapidly as the country developed a reputation for electrical appliances and gadgets.

1968

1989

Narahashi earned a degree from the School of Letters, Art, and Science of Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan, 1989.

1994

In the early 1990s, Narahashi explored street photography.

Fun Fact: Between 1838 and 1839 the first photograph of figures in the street was recorded by Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre in one of a pair of daguerreotype views taken from the window of his studio on the Boulevard du Temple in Paris.

2001

"I am not a very good swimmer, and I am rather uncomfortable in the water. I cannot escape a sense of fear. Even if I decide that I want to take a photograph from [the water], there are times when I just can't do it." ([Source](#))

* Although Narahashi isn't a good swimmer, she challenges herself when she takes her photographs. Find a partner and share **how do you challenge yourself?**



Barbara Morgan (American, 1900 – 1992), [*Wind Ripples in Mono Lake*](#), 1929. Gelatin silver print, 6 1/4 x 9 1/2 in (15.9 x 24.1 cm).
Gift of Lloyd and Janet Morgan, Collection of the Haggerty Museum of Art, Marquette University, 91.3.53.

Art in Context

Use this timeline with your students to explore Barbara Morgan's life and work.

Barbara Morgan was born in Buffalo, Kansas, U.S.A. on July 8, 1900.

American event: The 1900 [census](#) is conducted on June 1, 1900. In the first census of the 20th century, the population of the United States rose to 76,212,168, a 21% increase since 1890. For the first time, the census included all fifty entities that would become the fifty states after Hawaii officially became a territory of the United States on August 12, 1898.

1900

Morgan graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

1923

American event: In 1923, the 450-foot-long, 45-foot-tall "Hollywood" sign was erected on Mount Lee as a promotion for the Hollywoodland subdivision in Beachwood Canyon, CA.

Morgan traveled all over the United States while creating her artwork. Beginning around 1938 and extending into the early 1940s, her dance photographs traveled to over 150 colleges and other exhibition spaces in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, the West Coast, New England, and many places in between.

American event: World War II, also known as the Second World War, was a global war that lasted from 1939 to 1945. The vast majority of the world's countries, including all the great powers, eventually formed two opposing military alliances: the Allies and the Axis.

1938

Morgan produced a volume of photographs, *Summer Children*, consisting of pictures of her own and other children at summer camp. These pictures, taken during the years of World War II, were Morgan's attempt to offer an expression of hope and courage during a difficult time in the nation's history.

1924

Morgan taught high school and college art courses after graduating in 1923.



Many of Morgan's artworks feature dancers. Can water dance? Work together to create a one-minute dance as water and perform for the class. Will your water dance represent a calm stream, ocean waves, rain drops, or another type of water?

1951

Morgan was a guest instructor for the Ansel Adams Yosemite Workshops in 1970 and 1971. After years of working in photography, she resumed creating in drawing, watercolor, and painting as well, continuing through the 1970s.

1970

1992

Morgan died August 19, 1992, in North Tarrytown, NY, at the age of 92.

American event: Space Shuttle Endeavour landed safely on May 16, 1992, after a successful maiden voyage.

Experience and Explore

Describe It Activity:

Water is such a common substance that we barely notice it. It is around us every day, all the time. We use it for drinking, washing (ourselves, our clothes, and even our homes), recreation, and waste disposal, yet we take it for granted.

Give students time to look closely at a container of water. Work with students to create a list of words on the board that describe water. Helpful categories: the five senses.

Give students time to look closely at [*Wind Ripples in Mono Lake*](#), 1929, by Barbara Morgan. Work with students to create a list of words on the board that describe the artwork. Helpful categories: the principles and elements of art.



Looking at art tip: Ask students to describe where they see each word within the artwork (no pointing allowed). This will build important visual language skills.

Discuss the two lists of words as a class. What similarities and differences can they find when comparing the two lists?

Define It Activity:

In small groups, or as a large group, have students create a one-sentence definition of water using the list of words collected during the Describe It activity. Discuss as a class, then compare either the Merriam-Webster or the Oxford Dictionary definition of water.

The Dictionary by Merriam-Webster:

The liquid that descends from the clouds as rain, forms streams, lakes, and seas, and is a major constituent of all living matter and that when pure is an odorless, tasteless, very slightly compressible liquid oxide of hydrogen H₂O which appears bluish in thick layers, freezes at 0° C and boils at 100° C, has a maximum density at 4° C and a high specific heat, is feebly ionized to hydrogen and hydroxyl ions, and is a poor conductor of electricity and a good solvent.

OR

Oxford English Dictionary:

A colorless, transparent, odorless liquid that forms the seas, lakes, rivers, and rain and is the basis of the fluids of living organisms.

Make It Personal

Reflect

Using a [bubble mapping worksheet](#), have students map their personal connections with and knowledge about water.

- 1 Start with the middle bubble and have students write as many names for water as they know, and at least one new name. (Water, Eau, Agua, Mizu, Voda, Wasser, find more [here](#).) Explore water as cultural connection.
- 2 Connect the middle bubble with the 3 different states of water on Earth (Solid: ice/snow, Liquid: water/rain, Gas: water vapor/steam).
- 3 Encourage students to write their own personal memories of or stories with each state of water in the remaining connection bubbles.

Engage and Take Action

What can you do to learn more about water?

The Milwaukee Water Commons recommends that you learn to swim! Find out more [here](#).

Find swimming lessons available near you [here](#).

Fun Fact

Water behaves differently on different surfaces. It is more strongly attracted to some materials than others. For instance, water will form beads or droplets on waxed paper, but will be attracted to and absorbed into paper towel material.



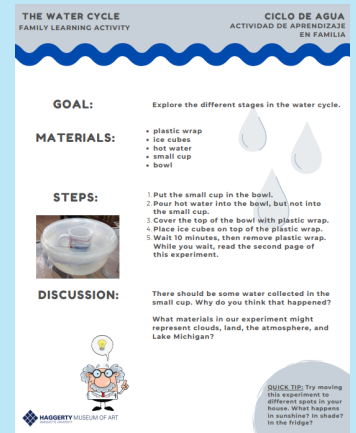
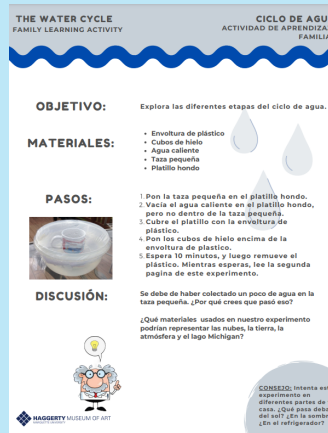
Deep Dives

Ask a local expert!

Send Liz Sutton, Manager, Outreach Program at [UWM School of Freshwater Sciences](https://uwm.edu/freshwater), an email at emsutton@uwm.edu to ask a specific water-related question. She will help to get you and your students an answer.

Family Learning Activity

Available in both [Spanish](#) and [English](#)!



EcoLiteracy Challenge

The EcoLiteracy Challenge is a one-stop shop for water and sustainability-related curricula, projects, presentations, field trips, and more that are designed to engage and excite everyone around our most precious resource: water.



Complete water-related activities, sign on to the ELC to report your activities for points, and help build a more sustainable community. Join the EcoLiteracy Challenge [here](#).

Visit the Next.cc [website](https://next.cc) to learn more about water.

Ride the Wave

Lessons can be scaffolded to meet the needs of any grade level.

Choose to do one lesson, or all three! Visit the Haggerty Museum of Art's [Educators webpage](#) to get started.

Essential Questions:

- What effect does water have on your senses?
- Where is water in the world, and what do different water environments entail?
- In what ways is water used in the world?

PreK-5

Lesson 1: Students will imagine and predict the impact on their senses if they were to “step inside” 3 works of art from the Haggerty Museum’s collection. This lesson is designed to encourage students to consider a variety of sensorial experiences linked to the human experience as it relates to water and water environments.

Lesson 2: Students will revisit [Lake Michigan from Michigan City, Indiana](#) by Kevin Miyazaki and [Yunohama](#) by Asako Narahashi, and [Barges on the Yotsugi-dori Canal \(no.33\) from One Hundred Famous Views of Edo](#) by Utagawa Hiroshige along with images of Lake Michigan as inspiration to create a watercolor painting depicting an element of the water cycle (rain, snow, sleet, fog, etc.)

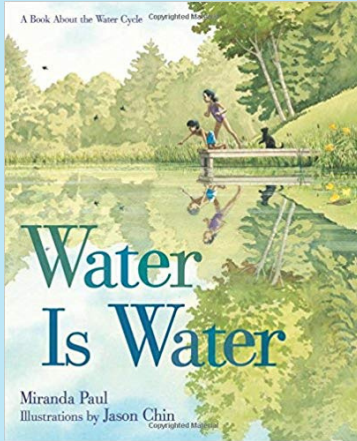
Lesson 3: Students will explore the transitions of color in the blending of watercolors along with the transition between the stages of ice and water. In addition to completing their watercolor painting, students will write an artist’s statement to accompany their painting.



Book Recommendations

Find them at a [library](#) near you!

Or click on each book title to follow along with a virtual reading.

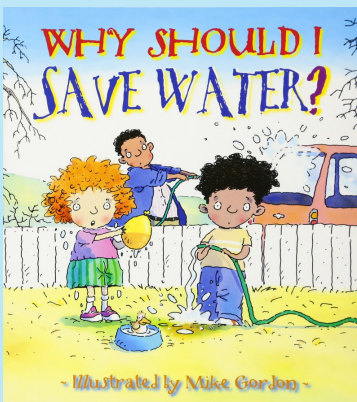
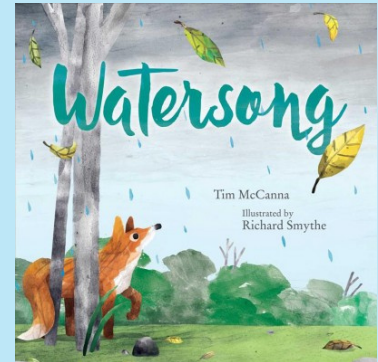


[Water Is Water : A Book About the Water Cycle](#)

Author: Miranda Paul
Illustrator: Jason Chin

[Watersong](#)

Author: Tim McCanna
Illustrator: Richard Smythe



[Why Should I Save Water?](#)

Author: Jen Green
Illustrator: Mike Gordon

For more ideas, check out Goodreads list “Best Children’s Books about Water” [here](#).

