Garibaldi Fish in Watercolor Pencil


This friendly fish is easy enough to draw for early elementary ages and can be accomplished with more detail by upper grade students as well.

Supplies:

Set of watercolor pencils
Watercolor brush
Watercolor paper, 9" x 12"
Pencil
Eraser
Garibaldi Fish photo reference (see below)
Paper Towels
Can of water

**Note: ALWAYS refer to the photo reference of the REAL fish below at EVERY step!**
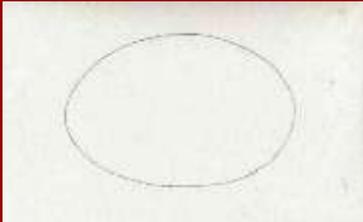
1. DRAW LIGHTLY WITH THE REGULAR PENCIL: Sketch a large OVAL in the center of the watercolor paper for the fish's body.
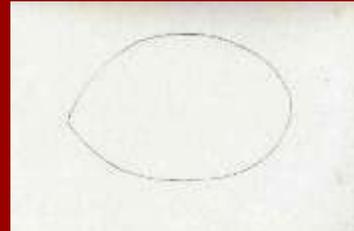
2. Correct the shape of the fish on the left side to make it taper to a point.
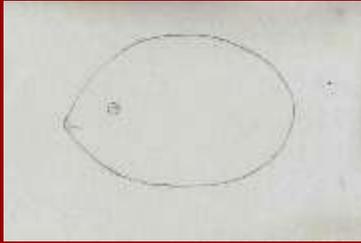
3. Now add on the mouth and eye.
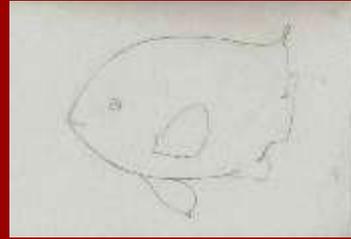
4. Now add the FIVE fins. Erase any unnecessary lines.

5. Color in the entire fish with a yellow watercolor pencil. LEAVE THE EYE WHITE! Brush over the whole fish with a wet brush. (Leave the eye alone!) Let it dry completely.

6. Look carefully at the photo above to see where the dark orange parts of the fish are. Color in these areas on your fish using a red- orange pencil. Do not brush these parts.
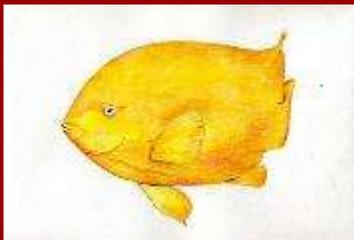
7. Add details around the mouth and on the fins using the red- orange pencil. Use a dark brown pencil to fill in the center of the eye. (Do not brush.)
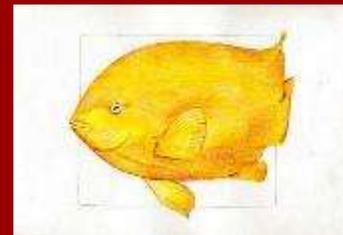
8. Draw a rectangle around the fish, but let parts of the fish extend past the rectangle. Use a pencil and ruler for this.
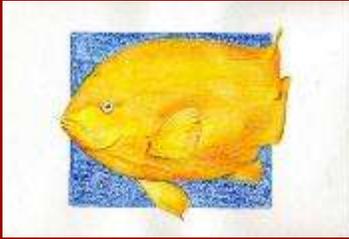
9. Color in the rectangle with a dark blue watercolor pencil.
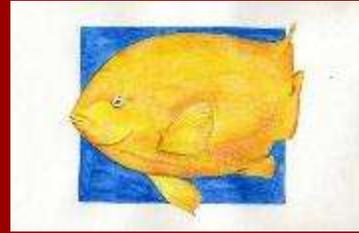
10. Carefully brush the dark blue with a wet brush. Be careful around the fish! Allow it all to dry completely.

11. Go over all of the blue with a dark green pencil. Press moderately hard.
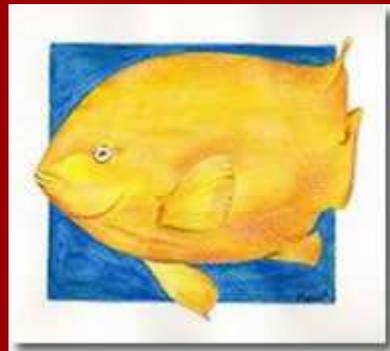
Garibaldi Fish Photo Reference courtesy of NOAA