

Secondary level | SOW on Map:

Maps, Memory and Abstraction

Using a map as a starting point, students will develop an understanding of how to experiment with colour and process to create a final abstract piece of work. They will explore stenciling and the use of tracing paper to create layers, and work in different media.

Art knowledge

Colour theory, mixed media, stencilling, collage, tracing, painting techniques, abstraction.

Lesson One - Artist Research

Lesson objectives

- Understand the work and context of Frank Bowling
- Develop research and annotation skills

Activities

- **Starter:** Visual analysis of Bowling's map paintings
- **Teacher input:** Background (Guyana → UK → USA, abstraction, materials)
- **Student task:** Create an artist research page –
 - Key facts
 - Visual studies
 - Written response (What do his paintings show/feel like?)

Lesson Two - Exploring Maps and Identity (Photogram or Collage?)

Learning objectives

- Understand how maps can represent identity and place
- Explore themes of identity, migration, and place
- Experiment with composition using map imagery

Activities

- **Starter:** Discuss different types of maps (geographical, personal, emotional)
- **Student task:** Trace or print a map of their local area or a meaningful place
- **Student task:** Create collage experiments (cutting, layering, distorting maps)

Lesson Three - Creative Map Exploration (Mixed media)

Learning objectives

- Experiment with materials and mark-making
- Develop abstract responses from map imagery

Activities

- **Student task:** Students develop their map work using:
 - Ink, paint, pencil
 - Collage
 - Mark-making (dripping, scratching, layering)

Lesson Four - Colour Theory and Emotional Colour

Learning objectives

- Understand colour theory (primary, secondary, complementary)
- Explore how colour can express mood and meaning

Activities

- **Starter:** Colour theory recap (colour wheel, contrast)
- **Student task:** Create a colour palette inspired by a place
- **Student task:** Test colour combinations over their map designs

Keywords

- Warm and cool colours
- Harmonious colours
- Tertiary colours

Lesson Five & Six - Creating a Final Piece in the Style of Frank Bowling

Learning objectives:

- Apply Bowling-inspired techniques (pouring, staining, layering)
- Plan a final composition

Activities

Demonstration:

- Pouring paint (use a pipette and blow water to move the paint)
- Tilting surfaces (letting paint drip)
- Layering washes

Students:

- Begin the background for the final piece using fluid paint techniques
- Work on an A3 mixed-media composition

Materials needed

- Scrap paper, magazines, old books that students can rip and tear apart