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Marcus Pfister

- Born in Bern, Switzerland in 1960
- Marcus attended the Art School of Bern and then completed an apprenticeship as a Graphic Designer.
- He worked as a graphic designer for three years then took a six-month break and traveled across the United States, Canada and Mexico.
- When he returned he started making sketches for his first picture book idea, "The Sleepy Owl."



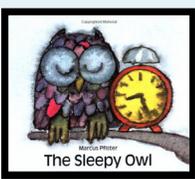
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A Life Changing Moment

"By the end of 1984 my first sketches for "The Sleepy Owl" emerged nearly by accident.

After finishing text and illustrations for the book, I sent this project to four different Swiss editors. But only the fifth and last one, North-South books in Zurich, agreed to publish my book.

Afterwards it took another 18 months before I could see my first printed picture book - an unforgettable moment!"



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Worked Both Jobs

- Until 1992, Marcus worked as a Graphic Designer AND an author/illustrator of children's books.
- In 1992 he burst onto the international scene with his book "The Rainbow Fish", which convinced him to focus solely on writing and illustrating his own books.
- Marcus Pfister has over 50 published books.



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Let's Talk

Which do you think comes first for Marcus, the story or the pictures?

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Here is what Marcus Pfister said...

This can change from one book to the next. The initial idea for a new project can be:

- a new character,
- a new story concept,
- or a new technique.

A story can change completely during the process of illustrating. For me this is one of the big advantages of being author and illustrator at the same time.

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How did they make the scales glitter in the book?

Step 1) Marcus paints his drawings and adds black paint to the scales he wants to glitter.

Step 2) The printer takes pictures of the artwork and puts those in the computer with the black scales.

Step 3) It is printed with the black scales first.

Step 4) It goes back through the printer and the glittery metallic foil is added.

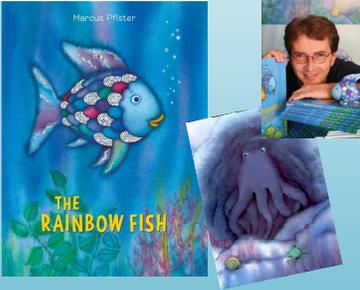


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The Rainbow Fish Success

The Rainbow Fish is popular all over the world and has been translated into 50 languages.

The printing process is really expensive so if Marcus hadn't been able to sell so many books in so many countries, they probably couldn't afford adding the glittery sparkle you see on the pages.



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Always Exploring

Even though Marcus Pfister is well known as a children's book author and illustrator, he is also a three-dimensional artist. His sculptures are about balance and structure.



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Our Project Today

Art Supplies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.5" x 8.5" Cardstock • Acrylic Paint • Pencil & Eraser • Scissors • Variety of Solid Colored Paper • Patterned Paper • Glue Stick • Cotton Swabs • Palette • Scrap Paper to Place Beneath Artwork 	Art Fundamentals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed Mediums • Collage • Children Book Illustrations
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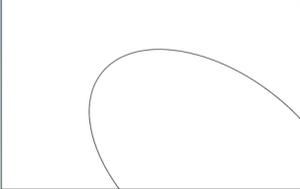
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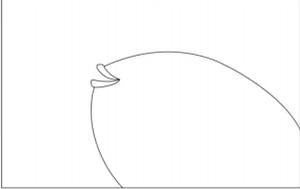
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Drawing the Fish

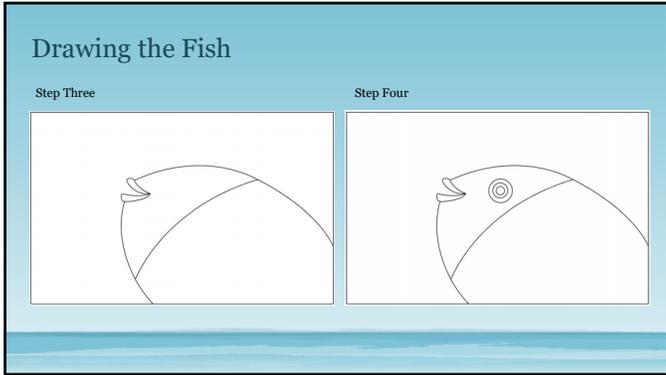
Step One



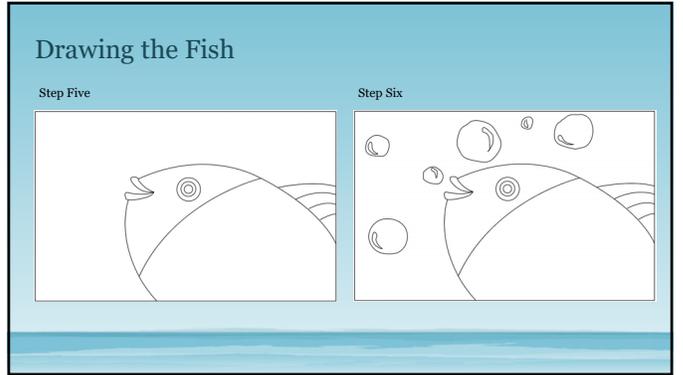
Step Two



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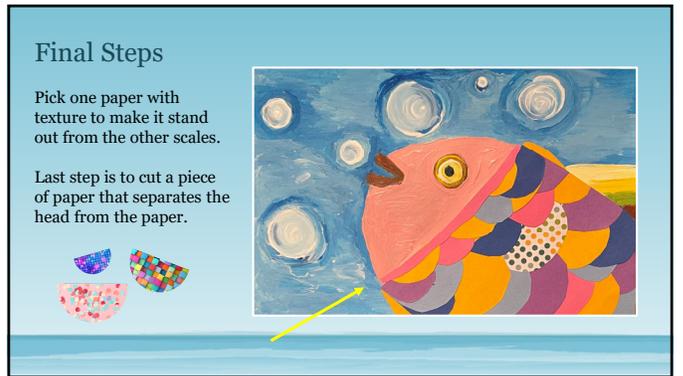
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