



Credit: Getty Images



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Crashing waves

This activity will introduce your pupils to the artist David Hockney and show how he has tackled painting water. It will also illustrate that ocean waves have energy.

You will need

- An image of David Hockney's Splash
- Paper
- Paint
- Brushes
- Straws

Steps

1

Look at Hockney's painting. Where was it painted? How did he paint the splash? What colours did he use to capture water? What is the difference between the water in a swimming pool and the ocean?

2

Wet the paper.

3

Use blues and greens to create an ocean on your paper.

4

Lay the painting carefully on the floor and drip white paint on to it.

5

Get close to the painting and with the straw blow the white paint around to give a splashing, wave-foam effect.

6

Try putting the paper on the floor and carefully dripping paint from higher up for bigger splashes.

Analysis/ discussion

Does the painting look like it has lots of energy? Look at the information on harnessing energy from waves and the movement of the tides in the 'Key points' section of this resource to find out how we can use the ocean – a source of renewable energy – to make electricity.