

SUBJECT AREAS:

Art

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

Water, conservation, cycle, energy

OBJECTIVES:

Students will understand the connection between art and the environment.

MATERIALS:

Crayons, colored pencils, markers, and/or watercolor paints, Natural materials such as leaves, flowers, twigs, and rocks, Glue, scissors, and other crafting supplies.

GRADE/LEVEL:

Elementary School

DURATION:

Preparation time: 1 hour

Activity time: 40- 60 min.

PLACE:

Classroom, outdoors

AUTHOR:

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Exploring Nature Through Art – (part II)

INTRODUCTION:

Begin by discussing the importance of nature and the environment. Explain how art can be inspired by the beauty of nature and used as a tool for environmental awareness.

Show examples of nature-inspired artwork, such as landscape paintings or drawings of animals and plants. Discuss the elements of these artworks that reflect the beauty and diversity of the natural world.

BACKGROUND:

This lesson aims to engage students in hands-on, nature-inspired art activities while fostering an understanding of the interdependence between art and the environment. By immersing students in the beauty of nature and encouraging them to express themselves artistically, this lesson cultivates a sense of environmental stewardship and inspires students to take action to protect the world around them.

Procedure:

1. Nature Walk and Observation (30 minutes): Take students on a nature walk around the school grounds or nearby outdoor area. Encourage them to observe and collect natural materials such as leaves, flowers, twigs, and rocks. During the walk, discuss the different elements of nature they encounter, such as trees, plants, insects, and animals. Talk about the importance of protecting these natural habitats.

2. Nature Art Activity (30 minutes): Return to the classroom and provide students with drawing paper or sketchbooks and art materials. Encourage students to use the natural materials they collected during the nature walk to create nature-inspired artwork. They can draw, paint, or create collages using the materials. Encourage creativity and experimentation, allowing students to express themselves freely while incorporating elements of nature into their artwork.

3. Discussion and Reflection (15 minutes): Once the art activity is complete, gather students together for a discussion. Ask students to share their artwork and explain how they were inspired by nature. Discuss the different ways nature can be represented in art and the messages they want to convey about environmental conservation. Reflect on the importance of protecting the environment and discuss actions students can take to help preserve nature in their daily lives.

4. Story time (15 minutes): Conclude the lesson with a story or video about nature and environmental conservation. Choose a story that reinforces the importance of respecting and caring for the environment, and discuss the themes and messages with the students.

FUN FACTS:

- *The Amazon Rainforest, often referred to as the "lungs of the Earth," produces about 20% of the world's oxygen.*
- *Trees communicate with each other through an underground network of fungi known as the "wood wide web."*
- *The Earth's tallest tree, Hyperion, is a coast redwood located in California and stands at a staggering height of 379 feet (115.7 meters).*
- *The Great Barrier Reef, off the coast of Australia, is the largest coral reef system in the world, stretching over 2,300 kilometers (1,430 miles).*
- *The Arctic Tern holds the record for the longest migration of any animal, traveling up to 71,000 kilometers (44,000 miles) round trip from its breeding grounds in the Arctic to its wintering grounds in the Antarctic.*
- *Bees are essential pollinators responsible for pollinating approximately one-third of the food we eat.*

ASSESSMENT:

1. **Observational Assessment:** Teachers will observe students' engagement, participation, and artistic expression during the nature walk and art activity. They will assess students' ability to incorporate natural materials into their artwork and express their connection to the environment through their creations.
2. **Artwork Evaluation:** Students' artwork will be evaluated based on creativity, originality, and incorporation of nature-inspired elements. Teachers will assess how effectively students convey their appreciation for the environment and their understanding of environmental conservation through their artwork.
3. **Discussion and Reflection:** Teachers will facilitate a discussion and reflection session at the end of the lesson, where students will share their artwork and discuss their inspiration and messages related to the environment. Teachers will assess students' ability to articulate their thoughts and feelings about nature and environmental conservation.

EVALUATION:

Evaluation of students' learning in this lesson will encompass various aspects of their engagement with the content and their creative expression. Through observational assessment during the nature walk and art activity, teachers will gauge students' level of participation, artistic skills, and ability to incorporate natural elements into their artwork. Additionally, assessment of students' artwork will focus on creativity, originality, and the extent to which they convey their connection to nature and understanding of environmental conservation. The discussion and reflection session will provide insight into students' ability to articulate their thoughts and feelings about the environment, demonstrating their comprehension of the lesson objectives.