

SUBJECT AREAS:

Art

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

Nature, art, sustainability, recycle

OBJECTIVES:

Students will explore the concept of environmental art and its significance in promoting sustainability.

MATERIALS:

Recycled materials, Glue, scissors, tape, and other crafting supplies, Markers, crayons, colored pencils, and/or paint Nature-themed stencils or templates

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 I)

INTRODUCTION:

Begin by discussing the concept of environmental art and its role in promoting sustainability. Explain how artists use recycled materials and natural elements to create artwork that raises awareness about environmental issues.

Show examples of eco-friendly artwork made from recycled materials and discuss the messages conveyed by the artists.

BACKGROUND:

Art and the environment intertwine as artists use creativity to address environmental issues. Integrating these themes in primary education allows students to explore creativity while learning about sustainability. Using recycled materials in art activities fosters an understanding of waste reduction and resource reuse. This lesson encourages students to express environmental appreciation through art, fostering a culture of sustainability in school and community.

Procedure:

1. Discussion on recycling (15 minutes): Engage students in a discussion about the importance of recycling and reducing waste. Talk about the different types of materials that can be recycled and the benefits of recycling for the environment. Show examples of everyday items that can be recycled and discuss how they can be transformed into new products.

2. Eco-Art Activity (30 minutes): Provide students with a variety of recycled materials and art supplies. Encourage students to use the recycled materials to create artwork with a nature or environmental theme. They can choose to make sculptures, collages, or mixed media pieces. Offer nature-themed stencils or templates for students who may need inspiration or guidance.

3. Sharing and Reflection (15 minutes): Once the artwork is complete, have students share their creations with the class. Encourage students to explain the messages or ideas behind their artwork and how they incorporated recycled materials. Facilitate a discussion about the importance of reducing waste and reusing materials to protect the environment.

4. Story time (15 minutes): Conclude the lesson with a story or video about recycling and environmental conservation. Choose a story that reinforces the importance of recycling and highlights the impact of individual actions on the environment. Discuss the themes and messages of the story with the students.

FUN FACTS:

- *The concept of environmental art, also known as eco-art, emerged in the late 1960s as artists began to address environmental issues in their work.*
- *The "Land Art" movement involves creating artworks directly in the landscape using natural materials such as rocks, soil, and vegetation.*
- *British artist Andy Goldsworthy is renowned for his ephemeral sculptures made from natural materials like leaves, twigs, and ice, which gradually decay over time.*
- *Recycled art, also called upcycled art, involves repurposing discarded materials to create new works of art, promoting waste reduction and environmental awareness.*
- *The "Trash Art" movement involves using trash and discarded items as materials for art projects, highlighting the impact of consumerism and waste on the environment.*

ASSESSMENT:

1. **Observational Assessment:** Teachers will observe students' engagement, participation, and artistic expression throughout the lesson, noting their use of recycled materials and incorporation of environmental themes into their artwork.
2. **Artwork Evaluation:** Students' artwork will be assessed based on creativity, originality, and the extent to which they convey environmental messages or themes. Teachers will consider the use of recycled materials, the clarity of the message, and the overall aesthetic quality of the artwork.
3. **Reflection and Discussion:** Teachers will facilitate a reflection session where students will share their thoughts, ideas, and inspirations behind their artwork. Students will be encouraged to articulate how their artwork reflects environmental awareness and sustainability principles.

EVALUATION:

Evaluation of students in this lesson will assess their engagement with environmental themes in art and their creative expression. Teachers will observe participation, artistic skills, and the incorporation of recycled materials and environmental messages into students' artwork. Artwork will be evaluated for creativity, originality, and effectiveness in conveying environmental awareness. Reflection and discussion sessions will provide insight into students' comprehension of the lesson objectives, while peer evaluation will encourage collaboration and communication skills. Overall, evaluation will focus on students' ability to express themselves artistically and demonstrate an understanding of environmental conservation principles through their artwork.