

## SUBJECT AREAS:

Art

## ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

Art, Sustainability

## OBJECTIVES:

Students will create eco-friendly art projects, exploring sustainability through creative expression.

## MATERIALS:

Recycled materials, non-toxic art supplies, drawing materials, writing materials.

## GRADE/LEVEL:

Upper Elementary School (12-14);

## DURATION:

150 minutes

Preparation time: 1 hour

Activity time: 40- 60 minutes

## PLACE:

Classroom, outdoors

## AUTHOR:

SYNTHESIS Center for  
Research and Education

# Eco-friendly art

## INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to today's lesson on Eco-Friendly Art! In this session, students will explore how art can be both creative and environmentally conscious. By using recycled materials and eco-friendly techniques, students will create artwork that promotes sustainability and raises awareness about environmental issues. Get ready to unleash your creativity while making a positive impact on the planet!

## BACKGROUND:

Environmental art, also known as eco-art, encompasses artworks that address environmental issues, promote sustainability, and raise awareness about the importance of protecting the planet. It emerged in response to growing environmental concerns and seeks to inspire change through creative expression. Environmental artists often use recycled materials, natural elements, and eco-friendly techniques to convey powerful messages about our relationship with the environment.

## Procedure:

1. Introduction (15 minutes): Begin by discussing the concept of sustainability and its importance in preserving the environment for future generations. Introduce the idea of eco-friendly art and its role in promoting sustainability through creative expression.
2. Exploration of Materials (20 minutes): Provide students with a variety of recycled materials and eco-friendly art supplies. Encourage students to explore the materials and brainstorm ideas for artwork that incorporates sustainable practices.
3. Nature-Inspired Art (30 minutes): Take students outdoors to observe and gather natural materials such as leaves, twigs, and stones. Guide students in creating nature-inspired artwork using the materials they collected, emphasizing the importance of respecting and preserving the natural environment.
4. Upcycling Project (40 minutes): Instruct students to choose a discarded or unused item (e.g., old magazines, plastic bottles) and repurpose it into a piece of artwork. Encourage students to think creatively and consider how they can transform the item into something beautiful or functional while reducing waste.
5. Reflection and Discussion (20 minutes): Lead a class discussion on the environmental impact of their art projects and the importance of making sustainable choices.
6. Presentation and Exhibition (optional): Organize an art exhibition showcasing students' eco-friendly art projects.

## FUN FACTS:

- *Some artists specialize in creating "upcycled" art, where they repurpose discarded or unwanted materials into new artworks, reducing waste and promoting sustainability.*
- *Environmental art installations often incorporate elements of nature, such as living plants, water features, or natural landscapes, creating immersive experiences that connect viewers with the environment.*
- *The "Land Art" movement, which emerged in the 1960s and 1970s, involves creating large-scale artworks using natural materials found in outdoor environments, such as rocks, earth, and vegetation.*
- *Eco-friendly art materials, such as water-based paints, natural dyes, and recycled paper, minimize the environmental impact of art production by reducing the use of harmful chemicals and non-renewable resources.*

## ASSESSMENT:

**Artwork Evaluation:** Assess students' artwork based on creativity, craftsmanship, and effective use of eco-friendly materials and techniques. Consider using a rubric to provide structured feedback.

**Reflection and Discussion:** Have students reflect on their artistic process and the environmental themes explored in their artwork. Engage in class discussions to deepen understanding and encourage critical thinking about sustainability.

**Peer Evaluation:** Implement peer evaluations where students provide constructive feedback on their classmates' artwork, fostering collaboration and communication skills.

**Written Reflections:** Assign written reflections where students discuss their artistic choices, the environmental impact of their artwork, and ways they can promote sustainability through their creative endeavors.

**Presentation Skills:** Assess students' presentation skills as they share their artwork and discuss the environmental messages conveyed. Evaluate clarity, confidence, and engagement during presentations.

**Presentation Skills:** Assess students' presentation skills as they explain their installations to the class, focusing on clarity, organization, and effectiveness in conveying their message.

## EVALUATION:

Assessing students' creativity, understanding of environmental themes, and ability to effectively convey messages through their artwork. Teachers can evaluate students' art installations based on criteria such as originality, craftsmanship, and relevance to the chosen environmental issue. Peer evaluations and class discussions provide opportunities for students to receive feedback and reflect on their work collaboratively. Written reflections allow students to articulate their artistic choices and the environmental messages conveyed in their installations.