

SUBJECT AREAS:

Art

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

The lesson explores creating art from natural materials, emphasizing the 4Rs and sustainable practices. Students will learn teamwork and vocabulary related to Earth art and sustainability.

OBJECTIVES:

Students will understand how to create art using natural materials, apply the principles of the 4Rs, collaborate effectively in teams, and demonstrate an appreciation for sustainability in art practices.

MATERIALS:

Students will need natural materials such as soil, leaves, twigs, and herbs, along with base materials like paper or cardboard. Additionally, tools for mixing and applying materials (e.g., brushes, containers) will be required. Technology resources include a smart board for displaying images and videos, and worksheets for reflection and research.

GRADE/LEVEL:

Elementary School (07-10)

DURATION:

Preparation time: 45 min.

Activity time: 45 min.

PLACE:

Outside the school and classroom

AUTOR:

Civil Society Organization Eco
Logic - Republic of North
Macedonia

Creativity with nature

INTRODUCTION:

The lesson begins with a short, immersive nature walk around the school grounds or a nearby garden, where the teacher guides students in using all their senses. They are encouraged to feel the textures of tree bark, listen to the rustling of leaves, smell the herbs or flowers, and observe the variety of green shades in the foliage. This sensory experience sets the stage for the lesson and helps students connect with nature on a deeper level.

After the walk, the teacher gathers the students and poses a thought-provoking question: "Have you ever considered how nature itself can be used to create beautiful artwork? Imagine using soil, leaves, and even twigs as your paintbrushes and colors." This question aims to spark curiosity and open students' minds to the possibility of using natural materials in creative ways.

The teacher then shares a brief discussion about how ancient cultures used natural materials to make pigments for painting and creating art long before modern paints and markers existed. For example, they might tell a story about indigenous cultures that used crushed berries for red dye or burned wood to create charcoal for drawing. To stimulate further imagination, the teacher asks, "What if, instead of using store-bought art supplies, we found everything we need for art right here in nature?" The students learn that today's project will involve using natural materials like soil, leaves, and herbs to create artwork, exploring how they can produce beautiful pieces while also respecting and protecting the environment.

The introduction concludes with a connection to the 4Rs, as the teacher emphasizes how the project encourages students to rethink the way

BACKGROUND:

The lesson introduces students to "Earth art," where they will create artwork using natural materials such as soil, leaves, and herbs. The purpose is to explore how nature's resources can be transformed into art while practicing the principles of the 4Rs: Reduce, reuse, recycle, and rethink. The teacher will provide historical context by explaining how ancient cultures used natural materials for art long before modern supplies were available, thereby connecting the lesson to the origins of art-making.

Students will gain an appreciation for nature's resources and learn to view the environment in a new light. The lesson will build on their prior knowledge about nature, plants, and environmental protection, emphasizing that art can be integrated into everyday life and used to convey important messages about sustainability.

Procedure:

Outline: The teacher will begin with a guided nature walk to collect materials, introducing the concept of creating art using natural items such as soil, leaves, and herbs. This will help students understand the idea of using nature to make art and connect it to the principles of the 4Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rethink.

Instruction: The teacher will present information on how ancient cultures used natural materials for art, explaining the historical significance and sustainability aspect. Visual aids, such as images of traditional natural artworks, will be displayed on a smart board. The teacher will encourage students to brainstorm how various natural materials can be used to create different textures and effects in their art.

Guided Practice: The teacher will demonstrate techniques, such as mixing soil with water to create natural paint, crushing leaves for texture, and arranging twigs and herbs on the base material. Students will then work in small groups, using the collected materials to plan and design a nature-themed artwork, allowing them to apply what they have learned.

Formative Assessment: The teacher will check for understanding by asking questions throughout the lesson, such as, "How can you create different textures using leaves?" or "In what ways does this project connect to the 4Rs?" The teacher will also circulate the classroom, monitoring progress and providing feedback to ensure students grasp the concepts.

Collaborative Process: Students will be paired or grouped to discuss their creative ideas and share the materials they collected. They will collaborate to plan how to use the natural materials to represent a nature-inspired subject, fostering teamwork and encouraging different perspectives on sustainable art practices.

Independent Practice: The teacher will assign worksheets that prompt further exploration, such as researching natural pigments or writing about how the 4Rs were applied in the lesson. Additionally, students will be encouraged to draw or reflect on the activity in their art journals to reinforce learning and independent thinking.

FUN FACTS:

- *Some artists use soil to create beautiful colors. For example, red clay can be used for red paint, and crushed leaves can create green shades!*
- *The oldest known cave paintings, found in Indonesia, are over 40,000 years old! Early humans used natural pigments made from plants and minerals to create these artworks.*
- *Leaves can be used as stamps. When dipped in paint and pressed onto paper, they create beautiful, unique patterns that look like nature's artwork.*
- *Art made from natural materials is biodegradable, meaning it will break down over time. This makes it an eco-friendly way to create.*
- *Famous nature artist: Andy Goldsworthy is a famous artist who uses natural materials to create temporary outdoor art. His works often include leaves, stones, and ice, and they change with the seasons.*

ASSESSMENT:

To check for understanding, the teacher will use a combination of questioning, observation, and reflection activities. During the lesson, the teacher will ask targeted questions about the 4Rs and the natural materials used in the artwork to assess comprehension.

After the art activity, students will participate in a group discussion to share their experiences and reflect on how they applied sustainability concepts. Additionally, the teacher will have students complete a brief journal entry or reflection worksheet describing what they learned about using natural materials and the importance of the 4Rs.

Finally, a fun quiz or game can be organized, such as a crossword puzzle using vocabulary terms from the lesson, to reinforce key concepts and assess retention in an engaging way.

EVALUATION:

The teacher will observe students during the art-making process to assess their engagement, collaboration, and ability to use natural materials creatively. This will help gauge their understanding of the concepts taught.

After the art activity, a facilitated class discussion will provide insights into students' comprehension. The teacher will encourage students to share their thoughts on the 4Rs and the sustainability aspects of their projects.

Students will complete a reflection journal entry where they articulate what they learned about using natural materials and the significance of sustainability. This written assessment will help measure their understanding and personal connection to the topic.

A short quiz or interactive game, such as a crossword puzzle with key vocabulary and concepts from the lesson, will be used to reinforce learning and assess retention of material in a fun way.