

Art In Nature

Principle: To observe and create compositions in nature that show an awareness of the principle elements in art: (color, line, shape, texture and composition)

Concept: Nature can be a beautiful medium for art.

Objective: To introduce the works of naturalist artist Andy Goldsworthy, and to create an art installation using natural elements in and around the school, after which their art will be photographed.

Supplies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ buckets of water✓ plastic bags for gathering things on the playground✓ slides (located with Meet the Masters)✓ DVD Rivers and Tides (in the library)✓ Art Program's Digital Camera (located in office) (Art committee will develop prints)
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Pre-Class Prep:	Schedule with teacher 30 to 45 minutes of classroom time the week ahead for slide show and dvd. See slide show outline in Art in Nature binder.
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Set-up:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Place a few buckets of water outside (some of the students may want to use water to draw with or change the color of an objects)
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Prints:

Samples: See third grade art folder

Lesson: **Demonstration:** Ask the students if they have ever made a sand castle or drawn designs in the sand? Have they ever made a snowman or snow angel? Sometimes creating art is very much like playing and exploring. Many artists are inspired by the beauty in nature. The colors, lines, shapes, textures and compositions. Some artists use paint or clay as their medium to make art; others, like Andy Goldsworthy, use nature itself.

"I enjoy the freedom of just using my hands and "found" tools – a sharp stone, the quill of a feather, thorns. I take the opportunities each day offers: if it is snowing, I work with snow, at leaf-fall it will be with leaves; a blown-over tree becomes a source of twigs and branches. I stop at a place or pick up a material because I feel that there is something to be discovered. Here is where I can learn." Quote from Andy Goldsworthy

Show slides and prints of Andy Goldsworthy's work.

Pose the question to the students, "Which is the actual art? The art installation or the photograph?"

Students: Have the students pair up in two's or three's. Take the students outside the school. Have them gather natural materials that are visually appealing. Look for different colors and different size leaves, rocks, sticks, dirt, etc. Have the students create a sculpture out of the natural things they have found. Take close up pictures of their completed work as well as a group photo of the students with their creation.

Parents: If you are using your own or the teachers' cameras, you must burn a disk for the art committee well in advance of the art show. Using the designated camera is best so we have all images stored and ready to print.

Lesson plan created by Michelle Smit

Instruction for Instructors

Vocabulary: Environmental Art– site specific work in the landscape using nature itself as a "found object", as both subject and raw material.