

Kimball Art Center Lesson Plan

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL AGES 13-17

Class Name: Create Natural Paints - Sharing Stories about our Connection to Land

Age Demographic: Middle and High School ages 13-17

Lesson Overview: Students will learn about land art, contemporary artists and create their own watercolor paint from natural materials. Through experimentation, students will explore the process of extracting pigments from things we find outside. Students will collaborate with classmates and document the different paints created before using the natural paints to reflect on their connection to a place.

Reference Materials: Mary Mattingly, Patrick Dean Hubble, Robert Smithson, Field notebook example (how to label something). Define Collaboration. Define Pigment.

Instructional Objectives: Learn about land art, be inspired by new contemporary artists, tie-in science core curriculum standards and experiment with new materials.

1. **Technical (what skills will students learn):**
 - How to grind up natural materials and make a watercolor paint.
2. **Conceptual (what ideas or what kind of thinking will students be engaging in):**
 - Experimentation in art. Extracting pigment from natural materials.
 - Thinking about how you are connected to nature.

Teaching Steps/ Process:

1. Get into small groups. Decorate field notebook (front and back cover, add name, inside leave pages for pigment testing, land art sketches and watercolor picture).
2. Gather materials for extracting pigment: tray, mortar and pestle, natural material, dixie cup, wooden spoon, flour, water, magazine, hammer, safety goggles, masks.
 - 1) Break into smaller pieces (cutting, breaking, hammering ect.).
 - 2) Use mortar and pestle to grind up the material until it turns to dust (5-7 minutes).
 - 3) Add small amounts of warm water.
 - 4) Add flour as a binder until you get desired consistency.
 - 5) Pour into a dixie cup and clean out the mortar and pestle for the next color.
3. Sample different types of natural paints from around the classroom. Document what material was used to create the paints using your field notebook.
4. Using a small sheet of watercolor paper, create a painting using the natural paints; insert into the field notebook when dry. Prompt: Paint a symbol or design that connects you to nature.
5. If you have extra time, have students draw 3 sketches of land art ideas (including size, location and materials used).
6. Collective Clean up.

List of supplies:

- Mortar and pestle *blender*
- Trays



- Hammer
- Safety goggles
- Latex free gloves
- Magazines
- Masks
- Scissors
- Dixie cups
- Wooden spoons
- Small field notebook *optional*
- Watercolor paper *smaller paper (cardstock or watercolor)*
- Watercolor brushes
- Flour
- Utah natural materials: Clays, Pine needles, Soil, leaves, ect.
- *Budget Friendly Options*

Notes on Classroom Set-up:

- Place students in even groups depending on the number of mortar and pestles. Have paper towels and wipes handy.

Closure/Reflection (how will you end the class):

- Reflect on land art and the artists.
- Talk about the process of creating natural paints - what did we enjoy, what was challenging, what would you try differently next time?
- Share painting with neighbors and talk about a place you are connected to nature.