

## **Common Core Lesson: Exploring Land Art and the Environment**

**Grade Level:** Kindergarten - 3rd grade

**Subject:** Visual Arts, Science

**Objective:** Students will be able to define land art, identify natural materials used in land art, and understand the relationship between land art and the environment.

### **Common Core Standards:**

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.1: With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.7: With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the text in which they appear.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.2: Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.2: Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2: Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

### **Materials:**

Picture books or printed materials featuring land art and land artists

Natural materials such as rocks, twigs, leaves, and dirt (optional for hands-on activity)

Art supplies (paper, crayons, markers, etc.)

**Procedure:**

**Introduction (5 minutes)**

Begin the lesson by asking the students if they have ever seen or heard of art made with materials found in nature.

Explain that today they will learn about a special kind of art called land art, also known as earth art or environmental art.

Show them pictures of land art installations and sculptures created by artists using natural materials found in nature.

**Read Aloud and Discussion (10 minutes)**

Read a picture book or share printed materials that introduce land art and showcase the work of land artists.

Pause throughout the reading to discuss key details and ask questions.

Use prompts like:

What materials do land artists use to create their artwork?

How is land art different from traditional art?

Why do you think land artists choose to create their artwork in nature?

**Artist Exploration (15 minutes)**

Divide the students into small groups or pairs.

Provide each group with information and images of a specific land artist, such as Robert Smithson, Michael Heizer, or Nancy Holt.

Instruct the students to discuss and observe the artworks created by their assigned artist.

Encourage them to describe the natural materials used in the artworks and how the artworks interact with the environment.

**Hands-on Activity (20 minutes)**

Optional: Take the students outdoors or provide them with a collection of natural materials indoors.

Explain that they will create their own land art using the natural materials they find.

Encourage students to arrange the materials in interesting ways and consider the environment in which their artwork is placed.

If going outdoors, remind students to respect nature and leave the materials as they found them after creating their artwork.

### **Sharing and Reflection (10 minutes)**

Invite students to share their land art creations with the class.

Encourage them to describe the materials they used and explain how their artwork interacts with the environment.

Facilitate a brief discussion on the importance of protecting the environment and the role land art plays in raising awareness.

### **Culminating Activity: Art and Writing (15 minutes)**

Provide each student with art supplies and paper.

Ask them to create a drawing or write a short paragraph about their favorite land art piece from the lesson.

Prompt them to describe the artwork and its relationship with the environment.

### **Resources:**

Book: "Andy Goldsworthy: A Collaboration with Nature" by Andy Goldsworthy and Tina Fiske - This beautifully illustrated picture book introduces students to the work of Andy Goldsworthy, a renowned land artist. It showcases his creations using natural materials found in nature, such as leaves, rocks, and twigs.

Book: "The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever" by H. Joseph Hopkins - This picture book tells the true story of Katherine Olivia Sessions, who transformed San Diego by introducing and nurturing various tree species.



It emphasizes the impact of one person's love for nature and how it can shape the environment.

Book: "The Art of Miss Chew" by Patricia Polacco - This book explores the journey of a young girl with artistic talent and her art teacher. While not specifically about environmental art, it emphasizes the power of art to inspire change and the connection between art and the environment.

**Extensions:**

Visit a local park or outdoor space to explore and create land art as a class.

Research and explore other land artists and their unique creations.

Discuss environmental topics and conservation efforts related to the natural materials used in land art.

Note: The lesson duration can be adjusted based on the needs and attention span of the students.