

PTA STEAM Festival Art Projects, Caregiver Guide.

Found Object Wind Chime (Structure, Function Energy, Cause & Effect)

Explore the science of sound as you use natural and recycled materials to make a wind chime.

Inspiration websites:

<https://www.upcycled-wonders.com/crafts/wind-chime-crafts-upcycled-ideas-make>

<https://www.bobvila.com/slideshow/blown-away-12-upcycled-wind-chimes-you-can-make-47327>

Vocabulary

Assemblage Sculpture - A three-dimensional composition made of various materials such as found objects, paper, wood, and textiles.

Found Material or Found Object - An image, material, or object, not originally intended as a work of art, that is obtained, selected, and exhibited by an artist, often without being altered in any way. An item that might have been thrown away.

Ideas for Materials to Use:

Sketch book, Pens and Markers

Scissors, Exacto Knives, Paint Brushes, Newspaper, Water Cups,

Paint Brushes, Hole Punch, Paper, Acrylic or Spray Paint

For the noise/sounds:

Fishing Line, Needles, Soda Bottles, Coffee Lid, Sea Shells, Bells, Soda Bottle Caps, Beads,

Washers, Bolts, Yarn, Pipe Cleaners, Wire, Foil, Dried Pasta, Soda Cans, Old Keys

Instructions

Use various materials to construct a wind chime. Experiment with different methods of fastening and combining. Sort the materials using a muffin tin or other divided container.

Choose your base, like a stick or small branch (visit the inspiration website above for ideas)

After initial exploration of the materials, plan out designs on paper by drawing a variety of ideas.

Think about how would you like the wind chime to look and sound.

Next, build the wind chime.

***Design challenge**, relate the wind chime to a specific sound.

Choose from one of the following or create your own:

Create a wind chime that will sound an alarm or warning signal.

Create a wind chime with a sound that will soothe and relax.

Create a wind chime that sounds like the ocean waves.

Create a wind chime with pitches that are only in a low, deep register.

Create a wind chime that has specific purpose (ie keeps deer, geese, predator animals away)

Design a wind chime with someone else's preferences in mind. What sounds would they like to hear?

What would they want it to look like?

Who is it for and why?

After building, test the wind chime in the wind or with a fan to observe the sounds it makes.

Finally, revise the wind chimes, reflecting upon the initial design and asking, does your wind chime look and sound like you expected? What could you change to make the look and/or sound more similar to your plan? Does it meet your initial design challenge (to soothe and relax, sound an alarm, etc.)

Exploring Naturalist Art and Ecology

Make connections between ecology and your own art making process. For naturalist artists, creating and sharing artwork that celebrates the beauty of their environment can also be a way to draw attention to the need to preserve that very environment. Examples can be found by viewing works by artists like Ansel Adams, Andy Goldsworthy, Georgia O'Keefe, and John James Audubon. Try to view some of their work online or at the library before you begin this project, (sample work below).

Vocabulary

Artist/Naturalist--a person whose intelligence and sense of self is embedded in Nature, and who expresses that deep connection through making art. (from morning-earth.org)

Ecological Art Education--Education has the power to influence the way individuals think of themselves in relation to their environments. An ecological approach to art education explores the interdependency of individuals with all living organisms and ecosystems with environments that surround them. (from greenmuseum.org)

Goal: To observe, study and document the unique natural features of our community.

Suggested Supplies/Materials

Sketchbooks

Digital Camera

Magazine photos

Bristol paper

Fine tip black markers, Colored pencils, Watercolors, Oil Pastels, Crayons, Pencils

Collage materials

Questions: Caregivers, allow for free discussion among the group. We've included some possible responses to get you going.

How do we define ecology? Ecology is the study of organisms and how they interact with the environment around them. An ecologist studies the relationship between living things and their habitats.

What about naturalism? A true-to-life style which involves the representation or depiction of nature (including people) with the least possible distortion or interpretation.

How might art and ecology interact? Nature can inspire art. Artists can create work that informs, promotes and translates the work of scientists into something tangible, thought-provoking, and creative to educate the public. Ecologists need creativity (and artists!) to help discover important components of the socio-ecological system. Artists not only use their eyes, but their ears, nose, hands, or whole body to assess the ecosystem and our effects on it. Illustrations are used for a wide variety of reasons which include books, newspaper and magazine stories, advertising, directions and for a multitude of scientific uses.

How have some artists (shown above) explored the connections between art and nature?

Georgia O'Keefe, is a keen observer of nature, and is best known for her paintings of magnified flowers. She would capture an object of everyday life. Her paintings pointed out a plant's unique shape and color variations for us to appreciate.

Can art have an impact on our planet? How?

We can view famous and lesser-known art exhibits through ecological glasses to see how the environment is represented in images and how a humans' place in the world is depicted. Art museums and exhibits can bring people together outside their political affiliation and into a different environment that allows for more empathy and discussion.

Do you think of your environment and community as art? Why or why not? (Opinion)

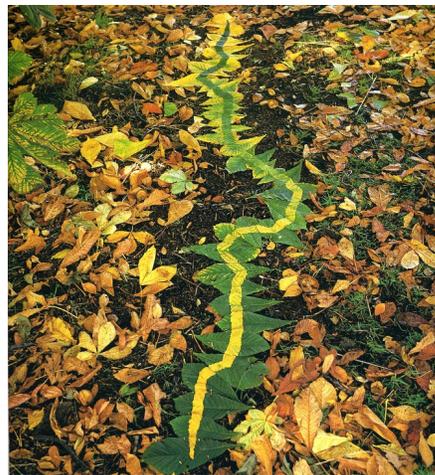
Directions

Field Observation: Spend time outside together in the community observing and documenting features of nature, including plants, trees, flowers, insects, animals, landscapes, etc. Each person should document their findings through note taking/journaling, sketching, and/or digital photography.

Choose one item from the notes to explore in a piece of art that echoes the naturalist style and perspective. Draw, paint, collage, or build a sculpture. You can also design an Earth day poster that promotes respect, protection and preservation of our environment.



Georgia O'Keefe



Andy Goldsworthy



Ansel Adams



John James Audubon