



Enduring Idea: Nature

Grade: 9-12

Integrated Discipline: English Language Arts

Unit Title: Transforming Spaces with Unconventional Materials

Unit Designer: Molly Whittaker

Unit Description: Nature is the commanding force and universal presence that all individuals interact with on a regular basis. We experience and observe the landscape of all spaces either natural or constructed in different manners. Individuals can create new methods of viewing and interacting with spaces to comprehend their own relationship or inclusiveness with nature. In the unit, the learners will manipulate or alter a space within the school grounds. The learners will collect unconventional materials such as cardboard and plastic bottles as well as stones and branches to communicate their wholeness with nature. The learners will explore their relations with nature in the school environment and write statements about their chosen spaces in their journals.

Images:

Frank Lloyd Wright, Clerestory Window Panel, 1993.16

Jorge Otero, Silos with Ladder, Estill, S.C., 1994.16.

Sally Mann, Untitled, 1998.8



Key Concept: Nature can be manipulated, transformed and altered to create new landscapes.

Essential Question: What are the various interactions between humans and nature? Which prevails in the environment?

CCSS Art:

VAH1-3.2: Analyze and describe the relationships among subject matter, symbols and themes in communicating intended meaning in his or her own artworks and in those of others.

VAH1-3.3 Select and effectively use subject matter, symbols and ideas to communicate meaning through his or her artworks.

VAH1-5.2: Make complex, descriptive, interpretative and evaluative judgments about his or own artworks and those of others.

Integrated CCSS:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Learning Outcomes:

Learners will alter and manipulate a space within the school grounds to communicate their wholeness or inclusiveness with nature.

Learners will collect unconventional materials such as stones, branches, leaves and fabric to transform their space.

Learners will interact with natural or constructed spaces to illustrate their understanding of nature.

Motivator: The learners will watch the *Rivers and Tides: Working with Time* Film to introduce the concept of manipulating and altering spaces and landscapes. The film trails Andy Goldsworthy's creative process from his icicle sculptures to his interlocking leaf chains and multi-colored pools of flowers. The artist's intricate masterpieces are made entirely of materials found in Mother Nature, who threatens and often succeeds in obliterating his creations. The learners will examine his interactions with nature as well as his new methods in creating spaces and landscapes.

Day Breakdown:

Class Period 1

Motivation: The learners will watch the Rivers and Tides Film and engage in class discussion. How does the artist in Rivers and Tides create spaces of personal difference? How does his site-specific installations illustrate his inclusiveness or wholeness with nature? What natural materials would you use? What unconventional materials? Recycled materials? Cardboard? Plastic Bottles? How would you transform a familiar space at school?

Teacher Demonstration:

The teacher will present images from the Christo and Jeanne-Claude, Frank Lloyd Wright, Jorge Otero, Andy Goldsworthy, and Sally Mann.

*Learners will be graded on the class participation rubric.

Class Period 2

Tour Guide of the School Grounds: The teacher will give students a tour guide of the school grounds to examine available spaces and landscapes.

Brainstorm: The learners will begin the brainstorm process in their journals as well as take photos of their space at the school to use as a visual reference.

*Learners will be graded on the class participation rubric.

Class Period 3

Field Trip to Local Recreation Area or Park: The learners will explore the trails and collect elements of nature such as leaves, branches and stones to alter their space.

*The learners will be graded on the class participation rubric.

Class Period 4

Studio Time: The teacher will distribute materials such as the burlap, twine plastic wrap and aluminum foil to the learners.

The learners will select classroom materials and collect their branches and leaves from the field trip site to begin altering or transforming their spaces.

*The learners will be graded on the class participation rubric.

Class Period 5

Studio Time: The learners will complete their spaces and share with their classmates.

Closure: The learners will write Feldman Art Critiques on their altered spaces in their journals.

*Learners will be graded on the Feldman Art Critique and the class participation rubric.

Materials:

Printer

Journals

Pencils

Twine

Cameras

Rice Paper

Aluminum Foil

Tissue paper

Plastic Wrap

Scrap Fabric

Leaves

Branches

Stones

Glue

Scissors
Burlap
Cardboard
Plastic Bottles

Resources:

Riedelsheimer, T. (2001). Rivers and Tides: Working with Time.

Environmental Artists and Images:

Andy Goldsworthy, Rowan Leaves and Hole, and Blue Stones and Hole
Christo and Jeanne-Claude, Wrapped Trees

Assessment:

Class Participation Rubric:

Did the learner use the class time to their fullest potential?

Did the learner clean up their materials at the end of class time?

Did the learner participate in class conversation? (Or was the learner courteous when others participated in the conversation?)

Did the learner write and brainstorm in their journals? Did the learner bring concepts and drawings to class?

Feldman Art Critique:

(Write Three Paragraphs)

1. Describe: What materials were used to alter the space? Where was the space within the school grounds?
2. Interpret: Does the space communicate a personal inclusiveness or wholeness with nature? How did personal difference transform the space?
3. Judge: Did the materials alter the landscape or space well? Did you create a new method to view that space? How could the transformation of the space improve? Would you use different materials?