

## Augusta Savage's Life

Fill in the circle by the correct answer. Then write the answers to numbers 3, 4, and 5.

1. Augusta was probably hopeful that contacting newspapers would \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (A) encourage the selection committee to change its decision  
 (B) make newspaper readers more interested in art  
 (C) make the committee cancel the art program in France  
 (D) encourage the selection committee to reject other applicants, too
2. Augusta's art and activism most likely \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (A) caused her nephew to be embarrassed  
 (B) allowed fewer African Americans to become artists  
 (C) encouraged more writers to ask for busts of themselves  
 (D) helped change perceptions of African Americans for the better
3. Explain why it was probably important for Augusta to make art accessible to all races.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

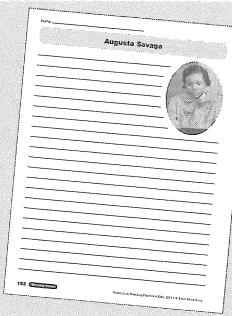
4. Write one question you would ask Augusta if you could interview her today.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Describe the sculpture *Gamin*. What feeling do you get from it?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Explain how Augusta affected future generations with her work.  
 Use details and examples to support your answer.



# **Art or Garbage?**

## Level 1

## Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

**Level 2** ■ ■

## Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

**Level 3**

## Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

**One Person's Junk...**

A regular reader of Art on the Web, One Person's junk is another person's treasure." These words by artist, collector, trash-to-art guru, and author, Ruth Asawa, sum up her philosophy. In her words, "many artists are turning to discarded materials because they are plentiful, turning discarded materials into useful objects is good for the environment, they also prove how creative people can be by bringing discarded materials to life."

**Garbage Art is Avant-Garde**

Artists have been creating art from discarded materials since the beginning of time. Most experimental, and unconventional, art movements have had an "artistic garage" phase. Artists have taken what they could find around them and turned it into art. From early 20th century Dadaists who used old umbrellas and hats to create art through using only plastic bags, to today's artists who use recycled art as medium as well as subjects. Some artists such as David Best and Michael Heizer have created artworks such as broken glass and metal that can be considered trash art. They have even created a term called "auto-destructive art" to describe their artwork. An example of this can be seen in the 1960's artwork of David Best, "The Last Supper," which was a broken glass plate that was later melted down.

**Art and Recycling**

Some artists don't care about being unique or trendy w/ art. Something that is important to them is making art that will make people think. This is what happened to artist, Ruth Asawa, in December 2013, the 80th anniversary of her birth. She was invited to speak at the National Conference on Teaching Visual Arts, displayed her artwork made of discarded materials. Her artwork consists of discarded items to bring about awareness of the importance of recycling. Her artwork includes discarded items such as old typewriters, lamps, and broken chairs. These discarded items are used to create beautiful things, like this chair, which was once a discarded typewriter base.

**Words In Memory  
One Person's  
Junk...**

**commemora**  
**medallions**  
**discovered**  
**avant-garde**  
**frenzy**  
**experimental**  
**unconventional**  
**landscapes**  
**breakthrough**  
**auto-destructive art**  
**reflect**  
**surfaces**  
**temple**

**Art on Garbage**

**Art on Garbage**

## **Assemble the Unit**

Reproduce and distribute one copy for each student:

- Visual Literacy page: Art or Garbage?, page 161
  - Level 1, 2, or 3 Reading Selection and Reading Comprehension page and the corresponding Words to Know list
  - Graphic Organizer of your choosing, provided on pages 180–186
  - Writing Form: Art or Garbage?, page 162

## **Introduce the Topic**

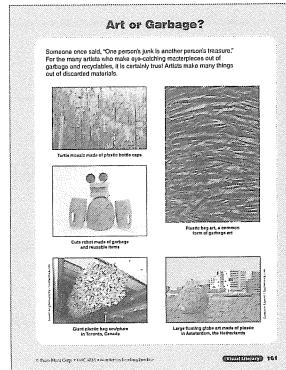
Read aloud and discuss the Art or Garbage? paragraph and photos. Explain that many discarded items are used by artists to create beautiful works of art. Point out that artists have done this for many years, and there are multiple reasons why an artist might choose to do this.

## **Read and Respond**

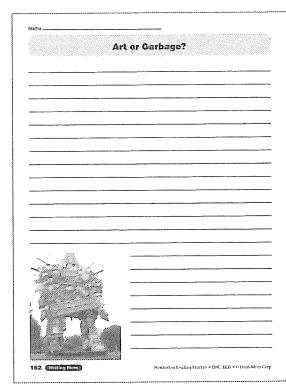
Form leveled groups and review the Words to Know lists with each group of students. Instruct each group to read their selection individually, in pairs, or as a group. Have students complete the Reading Comprehension page for their selection.

## **Write About the Topic**

Read aloud the leveled writing prompt for each group. Tell students to use the Graphic Organizer to plan their writing. Direct students to use their Writing Form to respond to their prompt.



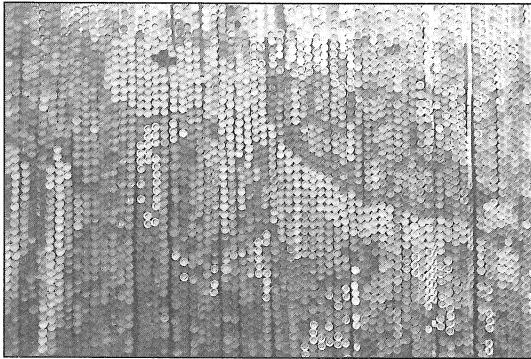
Visual Literacy



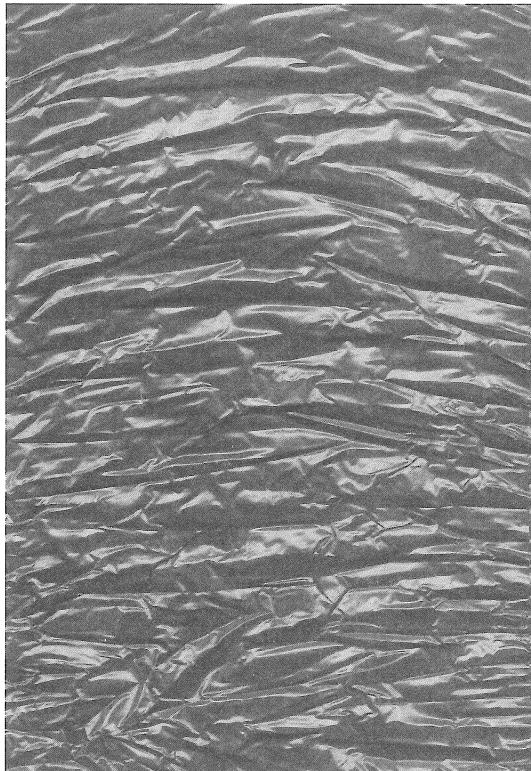
## Writing Form

# Art or Garbage?

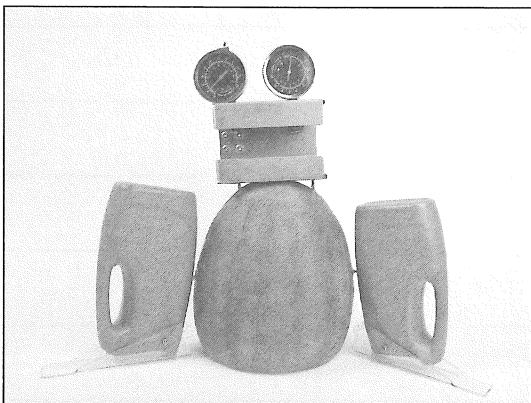
Someone once said, “One person’s junk is another person’s treasure.” For the many artists who make eye-catching masterpieces out of garbage and recyclables, it is certainly true! Artists make many things out of discarded materials.



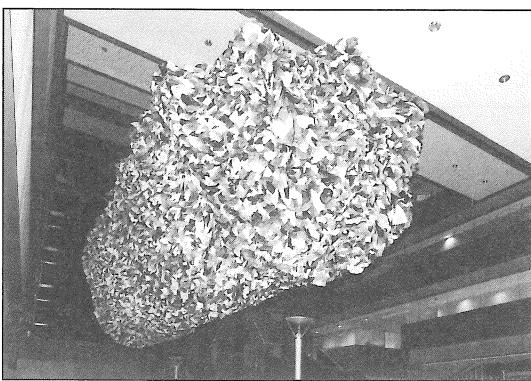
Turtle mosaic made of plastic bottle caps



Plastic bag art, a common form of garbage art

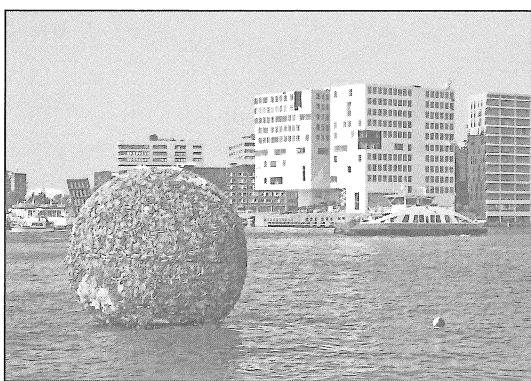


Cute robot made of garbage and reusable items



karenfoleyphotography / Shutterstock.com

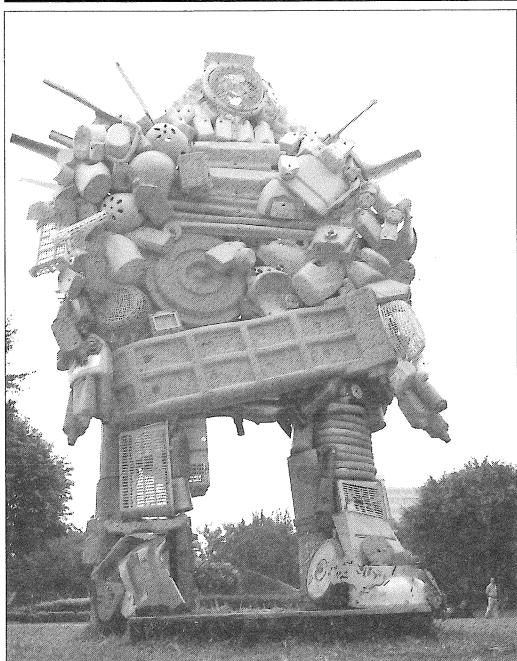
Giant plastic bag sculpture in Toronto, Canada



Giancarlo Liguori / Shutterstock.com

Large floating globe art made of plastic in Amsterdam, the Netherlands

# **Art or Garbage?**



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### **Words to Know**

#### **From Trash Can to Art Gallery**

gallery  
mediums  
ceramics  
inspires  
aluminum  
resembled  
wasting  
discarded  
recognize  
manipulated

### **Words to Know**

#### **Unique Art**

mediums  
transform  
breathtaking  
appreciate  
discarded  
landscape  
geographical  
fantastical  
nightmarish  
pyrography  
scorching  
cubism

### **Words to Know**

#### **One Person's Junk...**

ceramics  
mediums  
discarded  
avant-garde  
trendy  
experimental  
unconventional  
breathtaking  
landscapes  
auto-destructive art  
reflect  
surfaces  
temple

**Art or Garbage? ■**

**Art or Garbage? ■ ■**

**Art or Garbage? ■ ■ ■**

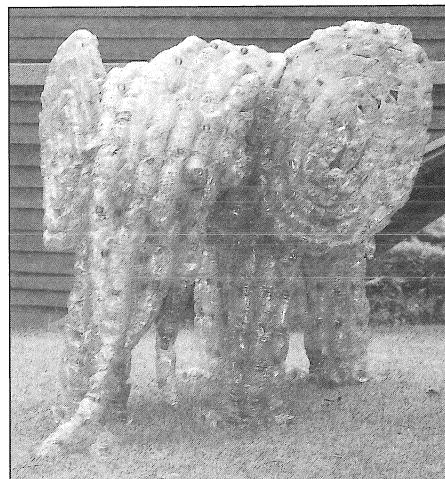
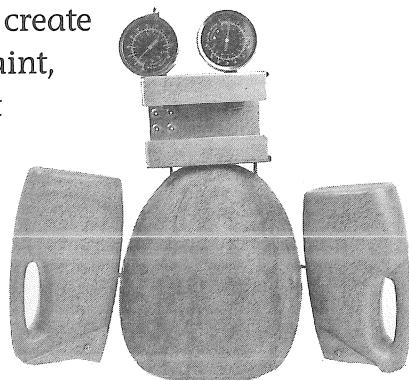


# From Trash Can to Art Gallery

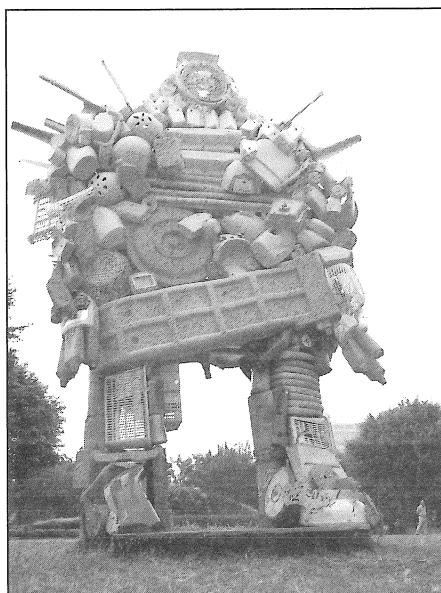
Artists can choose from many different mediums to create shapes. Artists use metal, ceramics, and ink. They can paint, sculpt, and draw. And, when it comes to art, it's all about what inspires the artist. Perhaps one of the most interesting mediums an artist can choose to work with is garbage. That's right. Some artwork is made of materials that have been thrown away.

## Garbage as Art

Some things that get thrown away still have value, especially to artists. Many artists make lovable figures out of junk. For example, an aluminum can or a watermelon may be used to create the body of a robot. A couple of speedometers could be used to make a robot's big eyes. Some artists have made animal figures, such as elephants, out of recyclable items. An artist in the United Kingdom made a full-sized chicken out of eggshells. The eggshells were beige and brown, and the figure resembled a real chicken. Rather than wasting away in a garbage dump, these discarded materials are used to create images and figures that are pleasing to the eye. But when did artists start to recognize that garbage can be manipulated to make art?



Elephant made of recycled plastic bottles



Sculpture in Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Shi Yali / Shutterstock.com

## Using Garbage for Art Isn't New

It's a well-known fact that artists have been using discarded resources for a long time. One of the reasons for this is that art supplies can be extremely expensive, and many artists don't make a lot of money. Another reason is that some artists want to bring attention to the fact that people throw away a lot of perfectly useful items.

## Art with a Purpose

In December 2011, the National Science Museum in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, displayed an enormous, colorful sculpture made of plastic waste found on its grounds. Its purpose was to bring about awareness of the amount of plastic being thrown away regularly. It gained international attention.

## From Trash Can to Art Gallery

Fill in the circle by the correct answer. Then write the answers to numbers 3, 4, and 5.

1. One thing the artwork in all the photos has in common is probably that \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A none of the artwork is pleasing to the eye  
 B all of the artwork is made of plastic only  
 C the artists felt like they had no choice of mediums  
 D the artists were inspired by the mediums they used
2. The purpose of this text is to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A inform about garbage being used for art  
 B persuade that garbage makes better art  
 C entertain with a story about garbage  
 D teach the process of making art out of garbage
3. Do any photos in the text show art you'd want in your home? Explain why or why not.  


---


---

4. Which would an artist prefer to use as a medium: garbage, clay, or paint? Explain why.  


---


---

5. Explain how the sculpture in Taiwan would encourage awareness about plastic waste.  


---

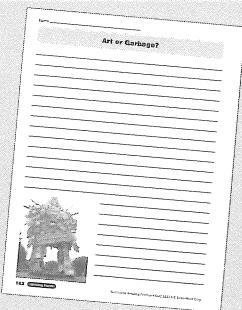
  


---

### Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Would the artwork in the photos be better if it wasn't made of discarded items? Support your opinion with text details.



# Unique Art

Artists can choose to work with many different mediums, such as paint, ink, metal, and clay. They transform dull materials into interesting shapes, even when garbage is the medium being used.

## Breathtaking Art

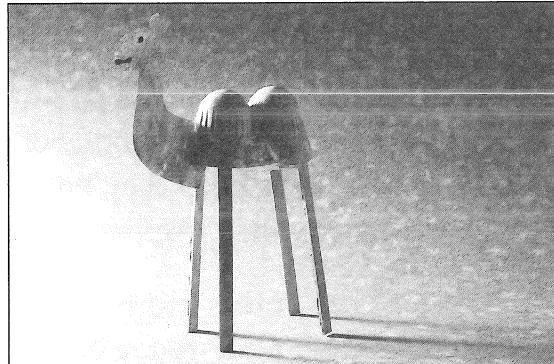
Most people appreciate art, but everybody has a different idea of what is beautiful. Did you know that some of the most attractive pieces of art were made of discarded materials? In 2012, a large work of art called *World of Litter* received international attention. The artist, Peter Singer, created an enormous globe that floated on water. It was bigger than some of the local boats! Singer created it by collecting hundreds of bottles and other forms of plastic waste.

Plastic bags are often designed to look like a landscape or a geographical area. Other times, the bags look fantastical or nightmarish. It depends on the artist's vision.

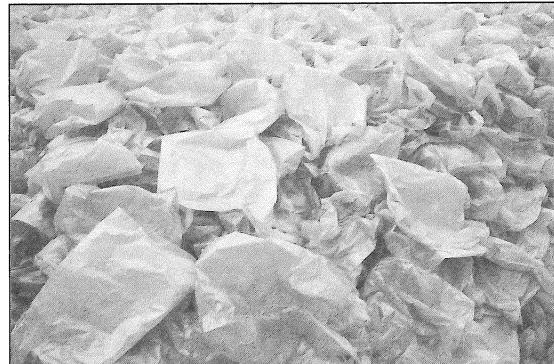
## Artistic Methods and Choices

Artists use a variety of methods to transform materials. For example, one method is pyrography, or the art of scorching materials so they look burned. Another method is cubism, when art focuses on shapes within natural images. Artists have many decisions to make when it comes to their art. Some of the benefits of using garbage are that it is cheaper, it reduces waste in dumps and in the environment, and it raises environmental awareness.

Overall, artists choose to use mediums and methods that suit their purposes. If they have a specific artistic style or message they want to share, this could affect their artistic choices.

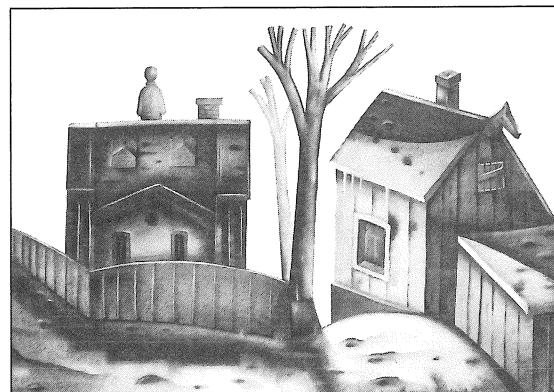


Camel made from discarded scraps



Plastic bag art designed to look like a snowy landscape

Ron Ellis / Shutterstock.com



Example of art with cubism

## Unique Art

Fill in the circle by the correct answer. Then write the answers to numbers 3, 4, and 5.

1. The author probably decided on the title “Unique Art” because \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A using garbage reduces waste  
 B garbage is the only unique medium  
 C art created from garbage is usually one-of-a-kind  
 D plastic bag art has to be unique
  2. One reason that Peter Singer created *World of Litter* could have been to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A create art that also serves as water transportation  
 B spend time cleaning plastic bottles  
 C teach other people how to become artists  
 D raise awareness about environmental waste
  3. Write two questions the text raised for you but didn’t answer.
- 
- 

4. Describe one image shown in the text that you liked or found interesting.
- 
- 

5. Explain in your own words the difference between artistic methods and art mediums.
- 
- 

### Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Write a short essay persuading artists why they should use garbage in their art. Use your own examples and text details.



# One Person's Junk...

A popular saying goes, "One person's junk is another person's treasure." There certainly is some truth in it. Rather than using paint, ink, ceramics, or other traditional mediums, many artists are turning to discarded materials to create their artwork. Although these materials create beautiful artwork, they also provide hope for the future by bringing about environmental awareness.

## Garbage Art Is Avant-Garde



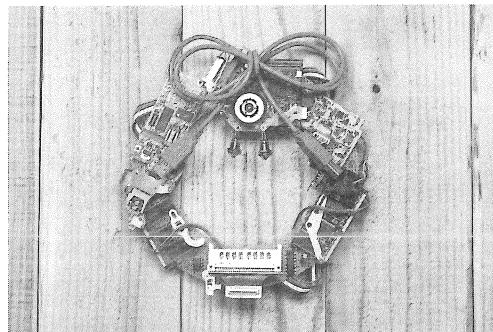
Plastic bag art

Being avant-garde means being trendy, experimental, and unconventional. For example, most people wouldn't think that an average plastic bag could have an artistic purpose. However, some artists would say that most people are wrong. Artists have taken photos of breathtaking landscapes and ocean surfaces created using only plastic bags. Although it may seem as though using garbage as an art medium is a new trend, artists have been doing it for years. Traditional art resources (such as paint, clay, and metal) can be extremely expensive. And another reason to be avant-garde by using garbage is to create something called "auto-destructive art." This means that an object doesn't start out as art. It becomes beautiful

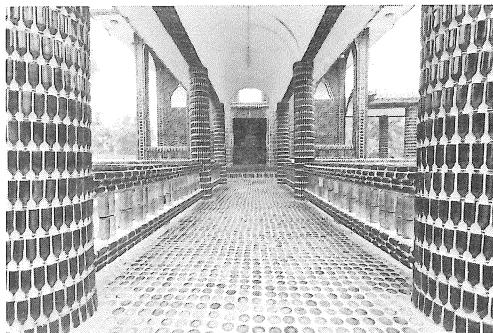
as it breaks or becomes old and worn. Have you ever seen broken glass? It can be very beautiful. The idea of auto-destructive art has existed since the 1960s. The idea itself is avant-garde!

## Art with a Message

Some artists don't care about being avant-garde or trendy at all. Sometimes, an artist wants to create something that will make people reflect or think about important issues. One popular theme that surfaces over and over again in art is the importance of reducing environmental waste. In December 2011, the National Science Museum in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, displayed an enormous, colorful sculpture made of plastic waste found on its grounds. Its purpose was to bring about awareness of the amount of plastic that is thrown away. It gained international attention. Recyclables are often used to create beautiful things. In Wat Lan Kuad, Thailand, a beautiful Buddhist temple was built using recycled glass bottles.



Wreath made of discarded computer parts



Buddhist temple in Wat Lan Kuad, Thailand