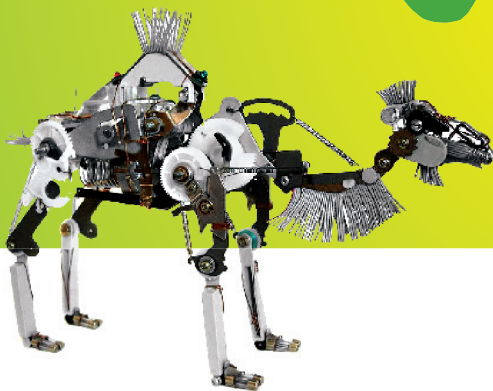


Trash Menagerie



Before Your Visit

Here are some ways to get your students thinking about art and the environment before your visit to the museum.

Talk about Your Upcoming Visit

Have any of the students been to a museum before? Have they been to this one? What are the right ways to behave in a museum, and why do we have those rules? (Hands to yourself, no running, stay with your group, use indoor voices, etc.)

Make a Museum Bulletin Board or Resource Corner!

Include pictures of the museum, artwork they might see, or some of the animals the artwork is based on (see supplementary list). Also include some key vocabulary words (see list), as well as brainstorm questions they might have and hope to have answered (bring this with you to the museum or send it ahead of time!). After your visit, you can continue this bulletin board with students' drawings and stories about their museum experience.

Read Stories with Your Class about Museums, Art and Nature

See list for suggested titles and discussion questions

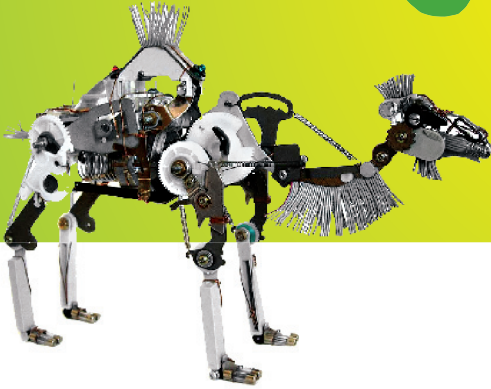
Create a Shapes Menagerie

Using one shape at a time, design an animal. For example, use triangles to design fish, birds or butterflies, or circles to design dogs, caterpillars, etc. Children may cut the basic shapes in half. Do this with several shapes; then create a final animal with all the shapes you've used before. This is a good cut-paper mosaic-style activity to introduce the ideas of shape, form, representation and characteristics. Pair with books like Eric Carle's or other cut-paper books and basic shape-style illustrations. You can also do this with colorforms, stencils or stamps, but it will be less flexible.

Practice Looking and Asking Questions about Art

Use images from pem.org as a good place to start, books from your school library (Caldecott winners are a great option) or posters in your own classroom! What is the subject of the artwork? How does it make students feel? What details do they notice about the main subject? The background? Other characters/elements in the piece? What colors are used? What mood does it create? What else does it remind them of? Remember, all answers are right when you're interpreting art for yourself!

Trash Menagerie



After Your Visit

The adventure doesn't end with the field trip! Here are some ways to keep the discussion going when you return to the classroom.

Reflect on Your Visit!

Have students practice language arts skills by writing a letter to the museum or writing and illustrating a story about their favorite part of the visit. Have students share their stories with the class before sending them to us.

Add to Your Museum Bulletin Board or Resource Corner!

Continue your bulletin board with students' drawings and stories about their museum experience.

Make a Classroom Pledge about Recycling

Discuss the kinds of recycled material you saw in the exhibition. Which of these things inspire the students' own recycling efforts? Discuss other ways to help the planet. Vote on and post your final list (pick about five doable ideas) in the classroom and send copies home.

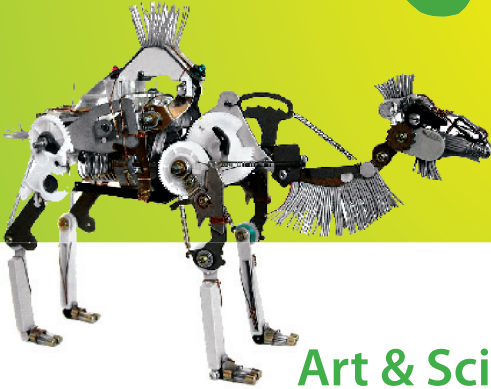
Encourage Natural Connections

Have students study the animals that their favorite art was based on (or one of the objects they took a "closer look" at with the docent). Make a drawing (or collage or diorama), read stories about those animals, find pictures of the real animals to add to the museum bulletin board, collect fun facts, or create your own recycled-material animals using similar or entirely different techniques from the exhibiting artists.

Trashimals in the Classroom!

Have students collect recyclable materials and do your own Trashimals art-making session. (You could make this a school-wide effort if you have a small class!) Have animal images available (books, magazines, etc.) for inspiration. Need help? Check out the "cereal boxer" pattern available online at pem.org/writable/resources/document/cereal_boxer_pattern_1_.pdf.

Trash Menagerie



Art & Science Vocabulary for Students

Artist's Interpretation How an artwork is created depends on the artist's viewpoint and what story she or he wants to tell.

Collage Artwork made by putting together two-dimensional (flat) elements.

Assemblage Artwork made by putting together three-dimensional elements.

Color Light reflecting (bouncing) off an object lets us see colors. White light contains all the colors of the rainbow. In art, there are three primary colors (red, yellow, blue) and three secondary or "mixed" colors (green, purple, orange) which then vary in intensity (pastels, neons, "burnt" colors, etc.).

Drawing, Sculpting and Painting Use examples and try creating these varieties of artwork with your class! Talk about the kinds of materials, tools and techniques you are using as you work.

Mixed Media Art that is created using different kinds of materials.

Form A 3-D geometrical figure (sphere, cube, cone, etc.), as opposed to a shape, which is 2-D, or flat. Form can also mean all the elements of an artwork and the way they fit together so that we understand the artwork as a whole.

Shape A "building block" of math and art. Basic shapes build complicated ones.

Characteristics The qualities of an artwork or object that help us identify or describe it (fish have fins, paper is smooth, rocks are heavy).

Inspiration Something that sparks an idea. Inspiration comes from anything we experience, and can inspire stories, artwork, scientific discoveries, etc.

Realistic Art that looks exactly like an actual object.

Representation Artwork that has some of the characteristics of a real thing but may leave out or change some details.

Environment The surroundings in which we live, often used as shorthand for the natural environment, or the world climate and ecology as a whole.

Habitat Where an animal or plant lives, its geography, climate and fellow animals.

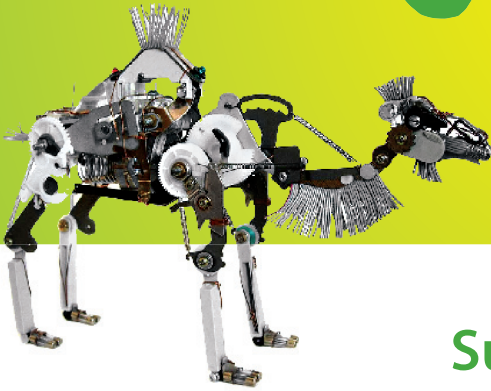
Trash Things that are no longer useful and are thrown away.

Recycling Changing or processing used materials so they can be reused for something else.

Waste Something left over, which may or may not be useless, or the use of too much of something.

Repurposing Taking something meant for one use and using it in a new or different way.

Trash Menagerie



Suggested References

Books and References For Children:

Astonishing Art with Recycled Rubbish, by Susan Martineau, 2001.

50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Recycle, by Earthworks Group, 1994.

I Stink, by Kate & Jim McMullan, 2006.

Just a Dream, by Chris van Allsburg, 1990.

Michael Recycle, by Ellie Bethel and Alexandra Colombo, 2008.

Recycle!: A Handbook for Kids, by Gail Gibbons 1996.

Recycle this Book: 100 Top Children's Book Authors Tell You How to Go Green, by Dan Gutman (editor), 2009.

Recycled Crafts Box, by Laura Martin, 2004.

The Day the Trash Came Out to Play, by David M. Beadle, 2004.

What Can You Do with an Old Red Shoe? A Green Activity Book about Reuse by Anna Alter, 2009.

Where Does the Garbage Go? by Paul Showers, 1994

Why Should I Recycle? by Jen Green, 2005.

For Adults & Educators:

Bottlecap Little Bottlecap: Four art projects for children, families, schools and non-profits utilizing recycled plastic bottlecaps, by Michelle Stitzlein, 2008.

Fantastic Recycled Plastic: 30 Clever Creations to Spark Your Imagination, by David and Robin Edgar.

Nemomatic; The kinetic sculptures of Nemo Gould, by Nemo Gould, 2009.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: An Easy Household Guide, by Nicky Scott, 2007.

Trashformations: Recycled Materials in Contemporary American Art and Design, by Lloyd E. Herman, 1998.

When Trash Becomes Art: TRASH rubbish mongo, by Lea Vergine, 2007.

Web Resources

The Green Team <http://www.thegreenteam.org/index.html>

Garbage <http://www.learner.org/interactives/garbage/intro.html>

National Recycling Coalition (NRC) <http://www.nrc-recycle.org/americanrecycles.aspx>

Michael Michael Go Recycle <http://resources.kaboose.com/games/michael-recycle.html>

Super Recycler <http://games.wrap.org.uk/superrecycler/>

Conversionator <http://www.nrc-recycle.org/americanrecycles.aspx>

DVDs and Videos

Garbage Warrior, 2007, 98 min. Unrated; recommended for teens and up

Junk Sculpture with Peggy Flores, Crystal, 23 min. Available through Art Video World

Recycled, Re-Seen: Folk Art from the Global Scrap Heap, Crystal, 35 min. Available through Art Video World

The Horse Sculpture of Deborah Butterfield, 20 min. Available through Art Video World

Wall-E, 2008, 98 min. Rated G