

NATURE



By: Rachael Wasden

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

How does the media shape our view of nature?

What is Nature's role?

What is your relationship with nature?

Is nature fragile or powerful?

Are we apart of nature or separated from it?

Why do you spend time in nature?

How do you affect nature?

Has your relationship with nature changed over the years?

How aware are you of local plants and animals?

How has modern housing affected nature?

What does "wild" or "wilderness" mean?

Can nature be art?

Learning Goals

In this unit students will be lead to make meaning artwork about or of nature. Students will explore ideas about nature and gain a new found appreciation for it. Students will also study contemporary and traidational landscape painters who use nature as an inspiration. Students will use what they have learned for their final project.



RATIONAL

In a busy and fast paced world it is important to slow down and teach students how to appreciate the beauty around them. Nature in an art class can help teach students to be aware of how to take care of the earth and also how to allow more of it into their lives. Through this unit students will be critically aware of different ideas about nature and informed on a wide variety of artists.

ARTISTS

George Inness

Albert Bierstadt

Thomas Cole

Frederic Church

Vincent Van Gogh

Wolf Khan

Claude Monet

Heather Day

Andy Goldsworthy

Richard Log

Mark Dion

Vaughn Bell

Learning Activities

1. Students will replicate a painting by George Inness and Claude Monet using painted paper and collage. Students will focus on the main shapes in the piece.
2. Using oil pastels students will replicate a Wolf Khan artwork and experiment with this new medium.
3. Students will explore another artist, Heather Day, and try replicating her abstractions of nature.
4. Students will learn the original methods of mixing their own gesso, using marble dust, rabbit skin glue, pigment, etc. Students will prepare their boards with gesso for our Plein Air oil paintings.
5. Students will go out in nature and paint the nature around them.

BIG PROJECT

Students will use nature in a way they haven't tried before to make an art work or to make a nature study. For my big project I chose to do flower prints. You hammer a flower on watercolor paper and see what print it leaves.

