

Art Integration Paper

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Endeavor STEM Teaching Project

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Art Form: Painting – Still Life

Students will be introduced to Vincent van Gogh's still life series of irises and sunflowers. In pairs they will discuss what they see in response to the following prompts:

- What do you see?
- What kinds of lines did the artist use?
- What colors did the artist use?
- What shapes did the artist use?
- How does the painting make you feel?

Students will use acrylic paint on paper and a dry brush technique to create still life paintings of flowers and plants from the school garden.

Lesson Enhancement

Students use the school garden to learn about the life cycles of plants and the needs of plants.

They learn to communicate and explain the changes that are taking place from day to day and week to week. They develop models to explain the plant life cycle. They look for patterns and record data in their garden journals for later analysis. In math they learn about plane shapes and 3-dimensional shapes.

The art integration will enhance the lesson sequence by training students to look closely at the plants. Students will look for patterns, such as the veins in leaves or the concentric forms of flower petals, that they can reproduce in their paintings. The mathematical concepts of shape will be reinforced as students recreate the shapes of leaves, petals, and stems.

I feel that integrating the arts is important because it gives students another entry point into the STEM fields. The creativity that is necessary for art activity is also inherent in science

endeavors. For my kindergarten students it is highly engaging and provides an opportunity for movement. For my English Learners it is an opportunity to work without the constraints of language. I feel that art promotes metacognition. The process lends itself to self-reflection.

Interdisciplinary Content

or art to truly enhance the content of a STEM learning sequence it must be clearly planned and aligned to the goals and objectives. Using an art project to reinforce concepts that have been taught is one way to use art effectively. For instance, after learning about rocks and fossils, students could produce a skit that teaches about the rock cycle or fossilization. After learning about life cycles students could make up a song or dance about the life cycle of a frog or butterfly. Photography could be used as a medium for documenting ongoing processes and communicating information. Drawing is an integral part of science journaling. Doing art reinforces many math concepts. Music builds number sense. Geometry and measurement concepts are used in drawing and painting. When the objectives of the lesson sequence are matched to the art project learning increases.