

Eco Art: Creating Beauty While Helping the Earth

Grade Level: 6th Grade

Subject: Visual Arts

Objective:

Students will learn about the concept of eco art and how artists use natural or recycled materials to create artwork that benefits the environment. They will explore the work of eco artists, such as Aurora Robson, and create their own eco art projects using materials that promote sustainability and environmental awareness.

Materials:

- General Supplies: Crayons, colored pencils, markers, paper, aprons, plastic table covers, glue, tape, scissors, and other crafting tools
- Recycled or Natural Materials: Plastic bottles, paper, cardboard, fabric scraps, buttons, leaves, twigs, stones, etc.
- Digital Presentation Tools: Computer, projector, screen
- Handouts: Artist bios (e.g., Aurora Robson), discussion questions, reflection journals, self-assessment forms
- Online Resources: Links to artist interviews, eco art galleries, and museum virtual tours

Lesson Duration: Five 60-minute class sessions.

Relevant Text:

Eco art is a cool way of making art that helps the Earth. Artists who make eco art use materials that are natural or recycled, turning things that might have been thrown away into beautiful art. This kind of art is not only fun to look at but also good for our planet because it uses less waste.

One artist who creates amazing eco art is Aurora Robson. Aurora takes plastic bottles and other plastic waste and turns them into stunning sculptures. She collects plastic that people usually throw away, like water bottles and shopping bags, and transforms them into colorful, flowing shapes that remind us of creatures from the ocean or plants. By doing this, Aurora helps reduce the amount of plastic waste, which is a big problem for the environment.

Aurora Robson's art is really inspiring because it shows us that with creativity and care for our environment, we can make something beautiful and helpful. Her work teaches us that recycling isn't just about reusing stuff—it can also be a way to create something new and exciting. This is why eco art is so important; it combines art with action to help our planet.

Detailed Weekly Plan:

Day 1: Introduction to Eco Art and Aurora Robson

- **Objective:** Introduce students to the concept of eco art and the work of Aurora Robson.

Materials for Day 1:

- Video clips or images of Aurora Robson's sculptures
- Crayons, colored pencils, markers, paper, aprons, plastic table covers
- Handouts with artist bio and discussion questions

Instructions and Script for Day 1:

Introduction (10 minutes):

- Teacher Script:

"Good morning, everyone! Today, we're going to learn about eco art, a special kind of art that helps the Earth. Eco artists use natural or recycled materials to create their art. Let's start by looking at the amazing work of Aurora Robson, an artist who transforms plastic waste into beautiful sculptures."

Artist Showcase: Aurora Robson (15 minutes):

- Presentation: Show images or video clips of Aurora Robson's sculptures.
- Discussion:
 - "What materials does Aurora Robson use in her art?"
 - "How do her sculptures help the environment?"
 - "Why is it important to use recycled materials in art?"

Hands-On Activity: Sketch Your Eco Art (20 minutes):

- Instructions: "Let's sketch ideas for our own eco art projects. Think about what recycled or natural materials you could use and how you can turn them into something beautiful."
- Materials: Provide paper, crayons, colored pencils, and markers.
- Guidance: Walk around and help students brainstorm ideas and create their sketches.

Wrap-Up (5 minutes):

- Teacher Script: "Great job today! We learned about how Aurora Robson uses recycled materials to create stunning art. Tomorrow, we'll start collecting materials for our own eco art projects."

Day 2: Collecting and Preparing Materials

Objective: Guide students in collecting recycled or natural materials for their eco art projects.

Materials for Day 2:

- Crayons, colored pencils, markers, paper, aprons, plastic table covers
- Bags or containers for collecting materials

Instructions and Script for Day 2:

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Teacher Script:

"Good morning! Yesterday, we sketched ideas for our eco art projects. Today, we'll start collecting the recycled or natural materials we need to create our art. Let's think about where we can find these materials."

Brainstorming and Collecting (20 minutes):

- Instructions: "Let's brainstorm where we can find recycled or natural materials. Then, we'll go collect them."
- Materials: Provide bags or containers for collecting materials.
- Guidance: Walk around and help students identify and collect suitable materials.

Hands-On Activity: Preparing Materials (30 minutes):

- Instructions: "Now that we've collected our materials, let's prepare them for our art projects. Clean and sort the materials, and think about how you'll use them in your artwork."
- Materials: Provide cleaning supplies and sorting containers.
- Guidance: Assist students in cleaning and sorting their materials.

Wrap-Up (5 minutes):

- Teacher Script: "Great job today! We've collected and prepared our materials. Tomorrow, we'll start creating our eco art projects."

Day 3: Creating Eco Art Projects

Objective: Begin creating eco art projects using collected materials.

Materials for Day 3:

- Recycled or natural materials
- Crayons, colored pencils, markers, paper, aprons, plastic table covers
- Glue, tape, scissors, and other crafting tools

Instructions and Script for Day 3:

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Teacher Script:

"Good morning! Yesterday, we collected and prepared our materials. Today, we'll start creating our eco art projects. Think about how you want to use your materials to create something beautiful and helpful for the environment."

Hands-On Activity: Creating Eco Art (45 minutes):

- Instructions: "Let's start creating our eco art projects. Use your recycled or natural materials to bring your ideas to life."

- Materials: Provide crafting tools and materials.

- Guidance: Assist students in creating their projects, offering suggestions and help as needed.

Wrap-Up (10 minutes):

- Teacher Script: "Great job today! We've made a lot of progress on our eco art projects. Tomorrow, we'll continue working on them and add finishing touches."

Day 4: Finishing Eco Art Projects

Objective: Complete eco art projects and prepare for presentation.

Materials for Day 4:

- Recycled or natural materials
- Crayons, colored pencils, markers, paper, aprons, plastic table covers
- Glue, tape, scissors, and other crafting tools

Instructions and Script for Day 4:

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Teacher Script:

"Good morning! Yesterday, we made great progress on our eco art projects. Today, we'll finish them and get ready to present them to the class."

Hands-On Activity: Completing Eco Art Projects (45 minutes):

- Instructions: "Let's add the finishing touches to our eco art projects. Make sure you're happy with your work and think about how you'll explain your project to the class."
- Materials: Provide crafting tools and materials.
- Guidance: Assist students in completing their projects and preparing for their presentations.

Wrap-Up (10 minutes):

- Teacher Script: "Great job today! We've finished our eco art projects. Tomorrow, we'll present them to the class and discuss how our materials help the environment."

Day 5: Presenting Eco Art Projects

Objective: Present eco art projects to the class and discuss the environmental impact of the materials used.

Materials for Day 5:

- Completed eco art projects
- Reflection journals, self-assessment forms

Instructions and Script for Day 5:

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Teacher Script:

"Good morning! Today is the day we present our eco art projects to the class. Let's get ready to share our creations and talk about how our materials help the environment."

Presenting Eco Art Projects (40 minutes):

- Instructions: "Each of you will come up and present your eco art project. Explain what materials you used and how they help the environment."

- Guidance: Encourage each student to present their project, giving them positive feedback and highlighting the environmental impact of their materials.

Discussion and Reflection (10 minutes):

- Teacher Script: "Let's take a moment to reflect on our projects. What did you enjoy most about creating your eco art? How did using recycled or natural materials help the environment?"

Reflection Journals (5 minutes):

- Instructions: "Write in your reflection journals about what you enjoyed, what you learned, and any challenges you faced while creating your eco art."
- Materials: Provide reflection journals and writing tools.

Wrap-Up (5 minutes):

- Teacher Script: "Great job, everyone! You all did amazing work creating beautiful eco art projects. Keep thinking about how you can use recycled and natural materials in your art to help our planet."

Extensions and Assessments

Extensions:

- Early Finishers: Students who finish early can write a short story in their reflection journals about their eco art project, describing the process and the impact of their materials.
- Additional Research: Students can research another eco artist and prepare a short presentation for the class.
 - Recommended Museums:
 - The Metropolitan Museum of Art
 - The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)
 - The Guggenheim Museum
 - The Tate Modern
 - The National Gallery of Art

- Virtual Tours: Use online resources to take virtual tours of museums featuring eco art. Links can be provided to museum websites with virtual tour options.

Assessments:

- Formative Assessment: Monitor students' progress during hands-on activities and provide ongoing feedback.
- Summative Assessment: Use a rubric to evaluate each student's eco art project based on creativity, adherence to the eco art concept, effort, and understanding of how recycled or natural materials help the environment.
- Self-Assessment: Have students complete a self-assessment form reflecting on their project and learning experience.
- Peer Assessment: Encourage peer feedback during the final critique session to promote collaborative learning.

Teacher Notes:

- Provide clear criteria for assessments and explain them to students at the beginning of the project.
- Use the rubric consistently to ensure fair and objective grading.
- Model positive and constructive feedback during critiques and encourage students to practice these skills.