

# **Environmental Found Object Sculpture**

**SUBJECT:** Environmental Science

**GRADE LEVEL:** 11

**LESSON PLAN:** Four 100-minute classes







Students explore environmental science concepts through their exploration of the local environment. Students will use found objects that are often discarded and repurpose them to create a found object sculpture. Key concepts surrounding this project are single use and disposable items and their impact on the environment, recycling and repurposing. Students are asked to sculpt a form that communicates a message about the environment.

# **OBJECTIVES:**

- Students will learn about sculpture, found object sculpture and assemblage as art forms.
- Students will design a composition that communicates a message about the environment.
- Students will choose the found objects, form and color scheme of their sculptural piece in an effort to help communicate their desired message.
- Students will construct a found object sculpture that communicates a message about the environment.
- Students will write a two-to-three sentence statement about their piece, the objects used and the message they are communicating.

## **BASIC OUTLINE OF THE LESSON:**

- Using the slideshow, introduce the Project and show examples of sculpture, found object sculpture and assemblage. Discuss the differences & similarities.
- Students begin brainstorming/sketching ideas.
- Students collect found objects (during class and outside of class).
- Students begin sculpting
- Students continue sculpting
- Students complete sculptures, title their work and write an artist statement
- Students display their sculptures, artist statement, give feedback and discuss

### **ART SUPPLIES:**

- found objects
- adhesive
- wire and/or string
- spray paint
- backer or base support board as needed.

#### OTHER RESOURCES:

- Slideshow to introduce project, related artwork and concepts
- Found objects (students find in and out of class, teacher provides some as well)

## **TECHNOLOGY:**

Access to computer for viewing the PowerPoint slideshow.

## **IDAHO STATE LEARNING STANDARDS:**

- Arts and Humanities: Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
  - O VA:Cr1.1.la: Use multiple approaches to begin creative endeavors.
  - VA:Cr1.2.la: Shape an artistic investigation of an aspect of present day life using a contemporary practice of art or design.
- Arts and Humanities: Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
  - VA:Cr2.1.lla: Through experimentation, practice, and persistence, demonstrate acquisition of skills and knowledge in a chosen art form.
  - VA:Cr2.3.Illa: Demonstrate in works of art or design how visual and material culture defines, shapes, enhances, inhibits, and/or empowers people's lives.

# • ESS3.C: Human Impact on Earth Systems:

 Though the magnitudes of human impacts are greater than they have ever been, so too are human abilities to model, predict, and manage current and future impacts. (ESS3-HS-5)

## **ACADEMIC LANGUAGE:**

- Subject area language: human impact, environment, pollution, waste, ecosystem
- Art language: found object, sculpture, assemblage, disparate, form, color scheme

# STUDENT USE OF VOCABULARY:

Students will use the words when creating their sculptures, when writing about their work in their artist statement, and when discussing their projects

## STUDENT GROUPING:

Students will work independently

#### **INSTRUCTION:**

### DAY 1 — INTRODUCTION

Introduce the project through the slide show

- Discuss sculpture, found object sculpture and assemblage and show artist work.
  - Ask what similarities and differences they see in each art form.
- Discuss strategies for brainstorming and planning design. Students should write down and/or sketch out at least 3 different ideas – discuss the importance of this step in success of final design
  - O What message do you want to communicate?
  - O What kinds of found objects can you use?
- If time allows, students and teachers go for a walking field trip to begin collect objects.
  - Remind students to find objects on their own time at home or when out and about.

## DAY 2 — PLANNING AND ARTMAKING

- Students bring in any found objects they have collected and continue sketching their plan and brainstorming their message.
- Students begin sculpting their found object assemblage sculptures.

#### DAY 3 — ARTMAKING

- Students continue sculpting. This is the last day of sculpting.
- If students finish early, they title their work and begin writing their artist statement.

## DAY 4 — PRESENTATIONS

- Students will finalize artist statement paragraph.
- Students will display their artwork and artist statement and participate in a gallery walk where they will observe each other's works and give feedback to at least two of their peer's work. Class discusses what they observed in their peer's work.

# **SLIDE SHOW OUTLINE:**

• Sculpture — what it is and visual examples/art

- Found object what it is and visual examples/art
  - o (Art 21 Mark Dion short video)
- Assemblage what it is and visual examples/art
  - (Bristol Whale video)
  - One Plastic Beach video)
  - o Compare/contrast the three approaches to art making
- Education and Art Goals
- Project details and plan
- Brainstorming/Planning idea/message, color scheme, form
- Artist statement question prompts to help students write their own artist statement
- Resources

## END OF PROJECT ARTIST REFLECTION AND PRESENTATION:

- What is your piece called?
- What message did you intend to communicate through this project?
- How did you assemble your sculpture?
- How do the found objects you incorporated help communicate your message?
- What form did you choose to sculpt and why? (How does it help communicate your message?)