



Merging Art with Environmental Education in Learning about the Great Plains





Introductions

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Center for Great Plains Studies (UNL)
Great Plains Art Museum



CENTER FOR GREAT PLAINS STUDIES



Warm-Up Discussion

What best practices have you learned in teaching youth to connect with their environment?

- How can art support students' empathy for nature?



Warm-Up Discussion

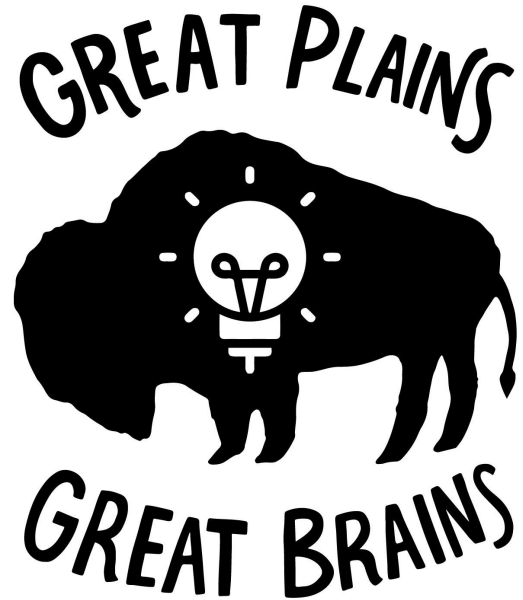
What are your experiences merging art and EE?

- What were the challenges and successes?
- Or what challenges/successes might you anticipate?



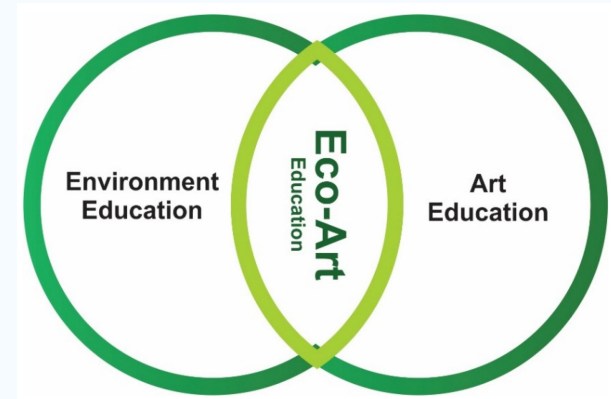
Background

- Great Plains, Great Brains afterschool curriculum
 - Supported by Beyond School Bells
 - Center of Excellence
 - Developed by
 - Center for Great Plains Studies | Great Plains Art Museum



About the Curriculum

- Three afterschool kits founded on place-based, eco-art education
 - An approach to integrate art education + EE
 - Focus on place to strengthen outcomes in environmental literacy
 - Knowledge about regional plants, animals, and places
 - Critical thinking and communication about environment
 - Appreciation for environment
 - Sustainable and conservation-minded behaviors



(Inwood, 2013)

Examples of Eco-Art Education

Art about flora, fauna, and environments



Garden-based art



Using recycled and found materials





About the Kits



Prairie EcoArt

Learning kit for grades 3-8



Gardening for Pollinators

 Learning kit for grades 3-8 



Visit the Great Plains

Learning kit for grades 3-8

Learning Objectives

- Describe how pollination works
- Identify native prairie plants and native pollinators
- Determine the mutual benefit native plants have for pollinators and vice-versa
- Design a pollinator garden for the school/community

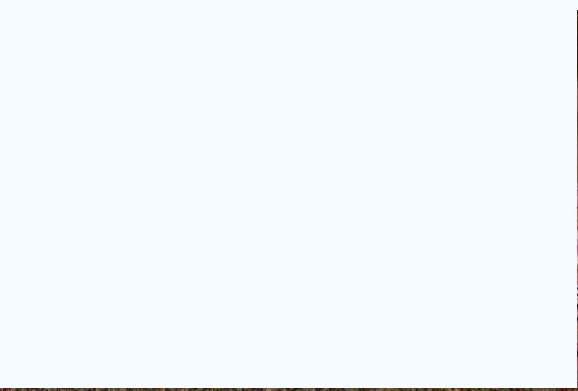


Gardening for Pollinators

 Learning kit for grades 3-8 

Lesson Plans

L1: The Science of Flower Pollination	Flower diagram art activity
L2: Meet the Pollinators	Pollinator guess who game
L3: Pollination Simulation	Pollination simulation game
L4: Native Plants: A Pollinator Superfood	Wildflower bombs and handmade seed paper
Design Challenge	Build a pollinator garden model for your school/community



Sep-Oct 2023:
Pilot testing at
Calvert Rec
Center

Project Name: the valley of the sea Location: Calvert Rec Center
 Landscape Designers: Lee Mallick, Anna Givara Date: Oct 17, 2023

Scale: 1/2" = 1 foot
1" = 2 feet

White Heath Aster
Symphoricarum ericoides

Black-eyed Susan
Rudbeckia hirta

Aromatic Aster

P	Aug - Oct	☀️
Type	Rosin	Star
Height	1 ft	1 - 3 ft
Spacing	1' x 1'	
Benefits		

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Learning Objectives

- Identify species of the Great Plains
- Determine why some of these species are in decline
- Justify why wildlife conservation is important
- Create a photobook to tell your story of living in the Great Plains and what it means to you



Visit the Great Plains

Learning kit for grades 3-8



Lesson Plans

L1: Where is the Great Plains?

Map game

L2: Iconic Mammals

Moving mammals zoetrope

L3: Fascinating Flights

Bird automaton

Design Challenge

Create a photobook of why you love the Great Plains



Oct-Dec 2023:
Pilot testing at
Calvert Rec
Center

Learning Objectives

- Create prairie-based art inspired by artworks in GPAM's collection
- Examine artworks closely and discuss and justify interpretations
- Connect environmental themes in the messages of the artworks



Prairie EcoArt



Learning kit for grades 3-8

Art Activity Guides

- Shadow Plant Paintings
- Dried Bean Nature Art
- Embroidered Prairie Art





Molly Murphy Adams (Oglala Lakota, b. 1977)
Relative Position, 2013
Mixed media



Paul A. Johnsgard & Allison Johnson, Bearberry
(*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), n.d., colored pencil and ink on
paper, gift of Paul A. Johnsgard.



Embroidered Prairie Art

Dried Bean Nature Art



Shadow Plant Paintings



Lesson Plan Discussion

What outcomes can you see in designing a pollinator garden for your school/community?



Thank you!
Any questions?

