Nature in Art

Join us as we explore the world around us to find inspiration in nature to create works of art!

Art is made by using your creativity and imagination to express an idea. It can be anything from a drawing or painting, to a dance, a song or the design of clothing. Inspiration for art is often found in nature. The colors in a sunset, the patterns on a bird feather, the shape of a leaf; all of these things have inspired humans for thousands of years when they have created art. Artists in the past and present also use natural materials, like sand, feathers or leaves, to make their art. There are many things in nature that can inspire us to create something new!

Day 2: Natural Moves

Art is anything that someone creates to share ideas or feelings. Dance is a type of art that uses body movements to tell a story or share emotion. Humans have used dance for thousands of years to tell their stories, and even some animals use dance or special movements to communicate with each other. Many of the stories that people have shared through dance are inspired by nature, since it has always been an important part of peoples’ lives. One of the best things about dance is that you don’t need special training or to know certain moves to do it. All you need is space to move and a story to tell!

Before you start, you should have:

- An area where you can move around
- Optional: props or costumes from around your home
- Optional: music of your choice
To play:
1. Choose the area you are dancing in – you’ll need room to move around.
2. Start by creating a movement or motion that represents each of the following:
   - Sky
   - Sun
   - Tree
   - Flower
   - Bee
   - Bird
   - Wind
   - Frog
   - Water
   - Swim
   Get creative with your motions! You can make them very specific, like using your legs to jump like a frog or flap your arms like wings for a bird, or do something completely different. You are the artist creating the dance, so there is no right or wrong movement!
3. Once you have created your dance moves, practice putting the motions together to tell the stories below:
   - The sun is covered by a cloud.
   - The wind blows through the trees.
   - The bee flies around the flowers.
   - The bird soars across the sky.
   - The frog swims through the water.
4. Try adding different emotions to your dance. Pick one of the dances you created and practice moving in different ways to show that you are:
   - Excited
   - Scared
   - Angry
   - Happy
5. Now put your moves together to tell your own story. Try adding props, costumes or even music to your dance.
6. Show someone your dances!

Keep exploring!
- Create a dance with a partner.
- Take turns with a partner to create different dances and take turns guessing what emotion and story each dance is telling.

More information on dance and dance in nature:
https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/resources-for-educators/classroom-resources/media-and-interactives/media/dance/do-you-wanna-dance/

What did you discover?
Upload a photo or video and tag the Sam Noble Museum on Instagram or Facebook. You can also use the hashtags #samnoblehome and #summerexplorers to share!

For more activities visit samnoblemuseum.ou.edu/samnoblehome