

Imagination, Awareness, adaptation: Art's Place in the World of Science

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This unit dives into the relationship of the visual arts and the sciences through a lens of conservation, pollution, and awareness. The focus being about the current situation of the Delaware River. Taking a look at Ansel Adams, a trailblazing landscape photographer, students will observe the impact art can have in respect to nature. The unit describes historic links between arts and science, especially the work of Leonardo DaVinci, one of the most well known artists and scientists. Students will be asked how they can combine their creativity, skill, and imagination to produce artworks with a message about the effects humans can have on the development of an ecosystem and the organisms within it. Three projects are proposed for student engagement: mutation masks, design a fish, and a propaganda style now and soon poster. These projects, as well as the unit, can be adapted to any grade level program. Through their art students will investigate how their creations will speak to the viewer and what engagement it leads the viewer too. This unit is designed for the art classroom, but has just as much of a right to be in the science curriculum. Scientific topics covered include adaptation, mutation, genetics, niches, natural selection and more.