

*"I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way - things I had no words for." ~Georgia O'Keeffe*

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## Art Across the Curriculum

by Leisa L. Watkins

[leisa@kindredkids.com](mailto:leisa@kindredkids.com)

### Why study art in your clubs?

- Art contributes to the child's development.
- It helps children appreciate their own uniqueness and to appreciate the individuality of others.
- Art helps make life and our experiences meaningful.
- Art can help them learn about the world around them.
- Art is a way for people to express themselves and can be a great way to help people. Drawing and painting help children to express complex feelings.

### Why study Art Across the Curriculum?

- Art doesn't just need to be taught as its own curriculum. It can be integrated into the study of nearly any subject.
- All children need a variety of experiences. By using art in many different types of curriculum we give them the opportunity to explore life in various ways.

*"Painting is just another way of keeping a diary." ~Pablo Picasso*

## A Few Ideas on Adding Art to Your Clubs 4H Curriculum

### Citizenship and Civic Education Projects

#### Citizenship - Local

- Make a mural featuring the history of your town
- Visit Art Museums - preview the exhibit first to check for appropriateness.
- Study local artists
- Study the local art genre. Is there a prevailing theme in many of the artist's work?
- Design a poster advertising
- Photograph Your Town

Know your town; Let Your Town Know You - Kodak Lesson Plan

<http://www.kodak.com/global/en/consumer/education/lessonPlans/lessonPlan146.shtml>

4 Different Ways to View Our City - Kodak Lesson Plan

<http://www.kodak.com/global/en/consumer/education/lessonPlans/lessonPlan140.shtml>

#### Cultural Understanding & Exchanges

- Photograph people from different generations and create an art show
  - Community Outreach - Hallmark Nursing Home
- <http://www.kodak.com/global/en/consumer/education/lessonPlans/lessonPlan007.shtml>

## **History**

- Study artwork created in the time period being studied and art that is about the time period. This makes it easier to identify with the period of that period.
- Learn about how the arts have influenced society. For a lesson plan go here: <http://gc2000.rutgers.edu/GC2000/MODULES/VISUAL/cta.htm>

## **Exploring Relationships - Me, My Family, and My Friends**

- Complete self-portraits in several different mediums. Try crayon, pastels, colored pencil, pen and ink. While your at it, study the self-portraits of some of the famous artists such as August Renoir and Vincent VanGough.
- Make a handmade book telling about themselves, their family, or their friends.
- Complete a photo essay about yourself, your family, or friends.
- Another idea: draw or paint a portrait of a friend. Complete a self-portrait and then think about things that you like to do together. The write a poem about it to exhibit with the two portraits.

### My Ideas:

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## **My Neighborhood**

- Complete a photographic story or video of their neighborhood.
- Take photos of your neighborhood at different angles and in unusual ways. For example, shoot the blossoms on the trees while lying down in the spring. Photograph the same tree at the same angle during the summer, then again in the fall and with the bare limbs and snow during the winter.
- My Neighborhood up Close and Personal: Take photos of the neighborhood up close. Have them photograph things that may often go unnoticed. Photo shoot of different angles then make a treasure hunt.
- Sketch the bark on the trees on the yard. This helps them notice the different textures and coloring. Complete a notebook that includes the photos, and drawings, and any memories you have about the tree.
- Gather items in the neighborhood and make a mixed media collage with them.

### My Ideas:

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## **My Heritage**

- Photograph or sketch the homes that your relatives have lived in.
- Photograph or sketch items of personal significance to your ancestors.
- Be sure to include the written communicative arts in this area so that those looking at the images will know the significance and history of the items they are looking at.

### My Ideas:

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## **Global Education Projects**

*Global education is one of my favorite ways to add art to our studies. Art can be studied under any culture or country around the world.*

## **And My World**

- Using photographs or paintings investigate how different cultures commemorate special events and celebrations. For example, compare and contrast two well-known paintings on a wedding theme. How do they differ from culture to culture?
- Learn about how different cultures use masks. For example, study how Eskimo masks are used for religious celebrations, and they view works by contemporary American artists such as Jasper Johns. A lesson plan can be found here: <http://www.getty.edu/artsednet/resources/Sampler/d-4.html>
- Study African culture and then make Adrinka clothe. Stamp different motifs onto fabric.
- Make hand-made paper in conjunction with a study of China.
- Learn origami during a study of Japan.
- Make stained glass windows in conjunction with a study on Italy.
- Study the artists from particular cultures.
- Make a notebook of historical costumes.
- Make a notebook of the costumes of other cultures and countries.
- Make cartouches out of polymer clay while studying ancient Egypt.

### My Ideas:

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## **Understanding Physical and Metal Limitations**

- Do some art blind-folded
- Form something out of clay blind-folded.
- Help teach some art projects to those that may have physical or metal limitations.

- Listen to music, blindfolded, and paint what you see.
- Listen to the music, blindfolded and then paint what you saw, but this time with your eyes open.

My Ideas:

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### **Community Service**

- Volunteer to lead arts and craft projects for a local shelter, hospital, or senior citizen center.
- Make art and craft projects for donation to a children's hospital, the Festival or Trees.
- Gather art supplies and send to orphanages in Iraq or other third-world countries.

My Ideas:

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### **Communications and Expressive Arts**

**Of course, the entire curriculum fits into Art Across the Curriculum. But here are a few ideas to keep in mind.**

#### **Communication Arts**

- Have the children give an oral narration on what they are seeing in a painting.
- Have them describe what they see in their "minds eye" when they listen to music.
- Study the works of various artists, studying each one for one month. Have them view some of their works, read a little about the artist, and tell you what they see in their works.
- Have them complete poetry to go with some of the art they have completed.
- Briefly review basic aesthetics questions:
  1. What is art?
  2. Why is art good?
  3. What are the purposes of art?
  4. Who decides these questions?

My Ideas:

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## **Consumer and Family Sciences**

### **Child Development**

- Discuss which art materials would be appropriate for age.
- Put in your babysitting boxes a few simple, age appropriate art projects that could be done with children they are babysitting. Keep in mind the appropriateness of project based on the possible mess factor.

My Ideas:

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### **Drama/Theater - Recreate photos**

- Recreate a painting by preparing costumes and props that are in the painting, and posing as the people in the painting.

My Ideas:

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### **Sewing Construction**

- Fabric Collage
- Paint on Silk
- Fashion Illustration
- Dye Fabric
- Learn about Fabric Design and Design Your Own

My Ideas:

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### **Consumer Education**

- Compare the costs of the various art mediums. For example, compare the costs of the different brands of watercolor. Discuss why they may be priced differently. If possible, try the different brands and see if they think that the difference in price is worth it.

My Ideas:

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**Home Environment**

- Learn about the impact that colors have on the moods of various people.
- Discuss what does each color reminds you of? For example, red for some people symbolizes death, for others in makes them feel happier.
- Select the colors you would like in your bedroom by selecting paint chips.
- Learn about the works of some of famous artists. Whose art would you prefer to have in your home?
- Design your own accessories
- Make accessories for your bedroom.

My Ideas:

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**Environmental Education and Earth Science**

Keeping a nature notebook is a great way to study the environment, the earth, habitats, and its inhabitants.

**Environmental Stewardship**

- Create a work of art that expresses your views of the environment.

My Ideas:

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**Weather and Climate**

- Study the sky paintings of Vincent VanGough. Paint the sky in his style.
- Now study how other artists have painted the sky.
- Draw and paint the clouds using different mediums.

My Ideas:

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### **Forestry**

- Draw the rings on the trees.
- Complete bark rubbings of various trees.
- Leaf printing.
- Photograph different types of trees during the different seasons.

My Ideas:

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### **Wildlife and Fisheries**

- Print a fish by painting a fish with various paints and pressing it to paper.
- Draw or paint wildlife.
- Cast animal tracks.
- Make art from porcupine quills.
- Study bronze sculptures of wild animals, and sculpt a wild animal.

My Ideas:

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### **Shooting Sports**

- Make a life size target. Discuss proportion and distance.
- Discuss camouflage and design camouflage fabric for different situations.
- Illustrate the different types of weapons.
- Study the illustrations of weapons made by Leonardo da Vinci. One such example is, Design For a Machine Gun, ca. 1482, Pen and ink

My Ideas:

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## Healthy Lifestyle Education

### Foods and Nutrition

- Learn what a food artist does.
- Learn about how food presentation can make a dish more appetizing.
- Sculpt food out of polymer clay.

#### My Ideas:

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### Critical Thinking Skills

- What makes great art? Discuss what others believe makes great art?
- Learn to critique art.
- Discuss artwork with someone who has a different opinion of the piece.

#### My Ideas:

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### Economics, Business & Marketing

- Learn about how art is used in marketing campaigns.
- Learn about the careers in art that relate to the business world.
- Look up the value of some famous paintings. What makes them worth so much? Learn about supply and demand and how it drives the prices of the paintings up.

#### My Ideas:

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### Personal Development

- Learn about how art touches the people in our lives. You will find a great lesson plan here: <http://www.getty.edu/artsednet/resources/Sampler/a-intro.html>. Here is what they have to say about how art can effect a child's personal development.

"Children will extend their abilities to relate to the emotional aspects of their lives as they relate to themes of human feeling in works of art. Their own art products will provided tangible, visible extensions of themselves to share with others.

As children make personal connections with works of art, they will discover that many important issues have been addressed in the arts of other cultures. Because they are more aware of this, they will become more open to new ideas and more receptive to learning about art and artists. They will become better able to interpret meaning and feeling when viewing works of art, and they will extend their visual and creative frames of reference. They will begin to understand that their own art can reflect understanding they have gained through observing and experiencing art."

- Make a personal treasure map...

My Ideas:

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### **Plants and Animals**

All plants and animals can be studied better by observing them and drawing them. We gain a great appreciation of things when we observe them for a length of time and really focus on them when drawing them. Still many additional activities could be done.

#### **Animals**

- Learn about the artistic expression shown in handcrafted wool blankets.
- Compare and contrast various forms of art that use animals as subjects. Discuss things such as realism, cartoon, and animation.
- Study and discuss the various textures of fur and skin.
- Sculpt animals.
- Study the art of John James Audubon, or other artists who study animals.
- Compare and contrast various forms of art that use animals as subjects. Discuss things such as realism, cartoon, and animation.

My Ideas:

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#### **Plants**

- Make fruit and vegetable prints.
- Use plants to make dyes and paints.
- Use plants grown in the garden to make paper.
- Make pressed flowers.
- Make illustrated drawings of plants. Study old woodcut drawings for inspiration.
- Study Monet's Garden images.
- Learn about controlling insects in the garden. The read a book by Eric Carle. Use the illustrations as inspiration for collage art.

▪ Ideas:

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- Make a personal treasure map...

My Ideas:

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### **Astronomy**

- Make a model of the solar system using polymer clay.
- Have the students think about how they would interpret space-using art. Study some art that does just that. Some websites that feature astronomical art are:  
<http://www.artfromthesoul.com/AstronomicalArt.html>  
<http://www.bettinaforget.com/galaxy-choices.html>  
<http://gallery.artofgregmartin.com/>
- Visit the Johnson Space Center Online Art Gallery at:  
<http://bejohnson.net/primary.html>
- Study some of the artistic monuments created to interpret the cosmos. One such example is America's Courtyard, 1998. Denise Milan (Brazilian, b. 1954) and Ary Perez (Brazilian, b. 1954)
- A study of most of the planets is a good time to talk about monochromatic color schemes.

My Ideas:

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### **Math**

Mathematics is not just about formulas and logic, but about patterns, symmetry, structure, and shape.

- Make models of polygons
- Study the geometry behind the Egyptian pyramids
- Study perspective.  
<http://php.indiana.edu/~mathart/viewpoints/lessons/>
- Learn about symmetry, patterns and tilings and their use in textile arts.
- Learn about the ornamental patterns in various cultures. Take a look at the Islamic patterns at Alhambra.
- Look at the art that mazes and labyrinths create from above.

- Study the proportion of body and how each part of the body can be measured by the head.
- Learn about The 1/3 rule - how things are more pleasing to the eye if they are placed in 1/3 of the photography or painting.
- Show students the illustrations that Leonardo da Vinci made on mathematical concepts. Have the students create their own illustrations.

My Ideas:

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### **Additional Sciences**

- History of Engineering Graphics
- Study the mechanical sketches of Leonardo DaVinci.
- Create an artistic light display.
- Learn about Kirlian photography - the photography that records the magnetic field around plants, animals, and metal objects.

My Ideas:

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### **Woodworking**

- Learn about proportion.
- Learn the history of furniture.

My Ideas:

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### **Computer Science**

- Computer Graphics
- Learn about the art of modifying computers

My Ideas:

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