

Week 8

Topic: Art

Guiding Questions:

What is art?

How can art be reflective of my community and my culture?

How is art representative of my country's natural landscape? Cultural values? History?

How does art change across national boundaries?

Why does art matter?

Goals:

- I. To find a new appreciation for the beauty and purpose of art within the context of culture
- II. To learn to recognize cultural details in art, and artistic details in cultures
- III. To inspire students to share their art beyond cultural lines and to explore art from other cultures

Activities:

1. A New Lens: Have students compete to collect or capture art from their community. Students can use disposable cameras or mobile phones to capture art that they feel is representative of their culture. They may take pictures of public art around town or private art from their homes. Alternatively, students might bring physical pieces of art from their homes or communities to share with the class. Remind students that the definition of "art" can be liberal, and is ultimately up to them. Students should be prepared to answer the question: "How does this art convey a cultural message?"
2. Recreation: Every culture around the world has unique art. Have students explore art from another culture (each student might be assigned a different culture, all students might be assigned the same culture, or this might be done as an exchange between partner classes), and attempt to recreate that art. Then, have students share their recreated art with students from the original culture of the art. Good examples of art include Batik from Malaysia, masquerade masks from France, Japanese fans, or Chinese dragons.



3. [Colors around the world](#): Students will discover that their favorite color might have a very different connotation in another culture.

Active Cross-Cultural Exchange: Have students create art and take pictures with a digital camera or scan images taken on disposable cameras. Have these pieces of artwork uploaded onto the Global Playground website to be viewed from students from across the globe. Students can also create art and have it shipped to other schools. For more information, contact info@globalplayground.org.