



the museum of found art

module 3

2

Activity presentation

Introduce the concept of found object art, where objects are found by artists and then used to make art. These objects can be absolutely anything, but for this lesson, students will be using materials that we typically think of as “trash”, and creating artwork from them. In the process, students will also have conversations about what trash really is.

Materials

-  Clean recyclable materials from waste audit
-  Broken toys or classroom materials
-  Arts and crafts scraps
-  Old clothes
-  Graphic organizer

Activity breakdown

Note : In preparation for this activity, ask to collect broken materials, and clean recyclables from neighbouring classrooms or from students' homes. Ensure that these materials are not toxic, sharp, or dangerous to manipulate.

1

Explain to students that one way to reduce all the waste that goes to landfill is to reframe how we think about the materials that we usually throw away. These materials can be repurposed in many ways, including as art.

2

Ask students what they think of when they think of art. Introduce the concept of **found object art**, where objects are found by artists and then used to make art. These objects can be absolutely anything, but for this lesson, students will be using materials that we typically think of as “trash”. This can include empty plastic containers, dry ad empty pens and markers, scraps from art activities, cardboard and paper, amongst others.

Activity breakdown (continued)

3

Show students some examples of found art.

4

Lay out the found objects from the previous activity, as well as any other materials you collected. Make sure to point out which objects the students found in their waste audit.

5

Using the graphic organizer provided, ask students to draw out a piece of art that they could create using some of the found objects. Ask students to describe their drawing, and write out how they are using the objects. *Ask students which objects are best suited to their piece. How do the objects change as they are combined?*

6

Once students have drawn a draft of their art, provide time to construct the pieces.

7

Once the artworks are completed, organize a gallery walk where students can walk around and view each other's creations. *Ask students if how they viewed the "trash" changed throughout the activity.*

Conclusion

Explain to students that what we consider "unusable" depends entirely on our beliefs and values. Activities such as these allow us to reframe how we view trash.

My found art

Found objects I am using: _____

A large, empty white rounded rectangle with rounded corners, intended for drawing or writing. It occupies the majority of the page below the text labels.