
Activity: Framing Nature
Age range: Grades K–8
Artistic Skill: Visual Art
Culture: Any

Skills to Develop: To translate a visual and physical experience of nature into a drawing using observation, detailed description, and composition.

What you need:

- Examples of nature photography/drawings
- 10-20 minutes for a walk outside
- Paper, pencils, erasers
- (Could include shared disposable cameras)

Vocabulary to explore:

- frame
- landscape
- experience
- composition
- sketch

Directions:

1. Look at some examples of nature photography and/or nature drawings. What details do you see? Are the *landscapes* you see real or imaginary?
2. Take a 10-minute walk outside without talking. Look up at the sky, look down at the ground, look everywhere around you as you walk.
3. Make a *frame* with your fingers- as if you were taking a photograph. This sets up a *composition*.
4. When you come back inside, take 10-20 minutes to write down (or talk about) as many things as you can remember that you saw on your walk.
5. Then consider what you were thinking about as you walked. Now make a *sketch* of one of the places or things that you saw or *experienced*. How can your drawing show what you were seeing and what you were thinking about?

Goal/Outcome: Students are more observant and begin to understand that artists use observations skills to conceive of and execute their art.

Curriculum Link: Language Arts Curriculum Standard 2: "Students will demonstrate the interest and ability to write effectively for a variety of purposes and audiences." Curriculum Frameworks for the Arts: Visual Arts Curriculum Standard 6: "Students will make connections among the visual arts, other disciplines, and daily life."