Artmobile Lessons

The following lesson plans are specifically designed to accompany the exhibition Off the Beaten Path: Contemplating the Land, as well as supplement Wyoming K-12 Fine and Performing Arts Standards. Each lesson has the potential to incorporate a writing component. Artmobile lessons are designed to be flexible, fun, and stimulating for learners of all ages. Each lesson is fully adaptable to fit your curricular needs and demands of your location, as well as complement and encourage your own creative ideas. We want to supplement learning at your site and in your community, to create an authentic and meaningful experience for all learners.

Treasured Lands

Sense of Place [Great for all ages]
Students engage in conversations about special outdoor places they visit—to connect with nature, to reflect in quiet solitude, to connect with family or friends, to hold special events, or to just play. Students choose a specific place in nature for the subject of a “senses” poem. Students integrate their poem text into an artwork they create about their chosen location. *Students may also create a book to house their poem with an illustrated cover.

Land of the Lost
Students reflect on special places to which they cannot return. These places may have physical locations, but can only exist in our memories, photographs, and in the stories we tell—or have been told. These are places that have changed over time or ones we can never travel to. Students use collage or mixed media methods to “reconstruct” lost places to which we can never travel.

Local explorations: Get Outside

Present Nature
Students talk about flora and fauna where they live. Students create a simple nature journal they will use outside. Students slow down to experience the present through natural observations & record various flora, fauna, patterns, and observations through drawings and text in their nature journals.

Plein Air Pastels & Watercolors
Students consider the many reasons why some artists work outside instead of inside. Students discuss what they would need to work in “plein air” and prepare for a fieldtrip to a natural spot surrounding the classroom or building. Students may create miniature landscapes, capture outdoor scenes, or focus on changing light and color. Students share their work in an indoor mini “exhibition” and share their experiences as “plein air” artists.
Collecting Colors
Students discuss the role of color in evoking feeling & emotion and consider how colors of the natural landscape contribute to our sense of time and place. Students step outside to collect colors that reflect their unique location, season, and time to inspire an abstract place-based work of art.

Collage Color fields
Students step outside and use a viewfinder to frame a landscape subject of their choice. Students map out their landscape and note textures, patterns and colors. Students complete their work through collage with colored, textured, and printed papers.

Printmaking Explorations
Students gather natural objects to study form texture, symmetry, and repetition through a variety of printmaking techniques (relief, monotype, drypoint, etching, Chine colle).

Sun Prints & Cyanotypes & Texture Rubbings [Great for all ages & limited time]
Students work as artist scientists to capture photograms of natural specimens using sun sensitive media. Students collect patterns and silhouettes of foliage through texture rubbings.

Shadow Play
Students study how light and shadow affect the way we experience the natural places we inhabit. Students create art by capturing shadows through photography and charcoal drawings.

Inner Explorations

Mapping Your Journey
Students engage in conversations about maps and their variety of uses. Students construct an abstract map, marking locations to significant life events or places that carry personal meaning. Students create a separate key or legend to interpret their map and journey, Students may choose to reveal their key/legend or conceal their key/legend in a personal journal.