

Art in Nature

PART 1 – Nature is all around you! All you have to do is find it. Start by looking out the window or going for a walk outside with an adult. What do you see? Do you see plants, animals, land, clouds, or a body of water? If so, you found nature. As you take in the natural wonders around you, find some plants. Pick your favorite plant and observe it by closely looking at its color, shape, and size. With the help of an adult, gently smell and touch the plant. What does its smell like? How does it feel? Use your observations to help you describe the plant’s color, feel, shape, size, and smell using descriptive words on a piece of paper or in the chart below.

Plant Characteristics	Descriptive Word Examples	My Plant Description
Color	Blue Brown Green Orange Purple Red Yellow	
Feel	Bumpy Hard Prickly Rough Smooth Soft Sticky	
Shape	Circular Cone Fan-shaped Oval Rectangular Straight Line Triangular	
Size	Large Medium Short Small Tall Thick Thin	
Smell	Earthy Minty Sour Sweet	

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PART 2 - Now that you've observed your favorite plant by smelling, touching, and looking at it, sketch (make a simple and quick drawing of) the plant on a piece of paper or in the space below.

Sketch the Plant



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PART 3 – Similar to nature, art comes in many different forms. Art can be a drawing, painting, performance, photograph, sculpture, and so much more. Learn more about some of the different types of art by reading the art descriptions below.



Drawing: A two-dimensional (flat) picture of something made by an artist using crayons, markers, pencils, or pens instead of paint



Painting: A two-dimensional (flat) picture of something made by an artist using paint



Performance: Creative activities such as dance, music, or a play that are performed by artists in front of an audience



Photograph: A two-dimensional (flat) picture of something taken by an artist with a camera



Sculpture: A three-dimensional (you can see all of the sides as you walk around it) work of art such as a statue made by an artist out of materials that are used in an interesting way

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PART 4 – Art tells stories. Now that you have learned about some of the different types of art, think about how you can share what you have learned about your plant through art. Will you create a painting, take a photograph, or perform a dance that tells a story about your plant? On a piece of paper or using the space below, plan your art before creating it.

Questions	Answer Examples	My Art Description
<p>What type of art will you create?</p>	<p>Drawing Painting Performance Photograph Sculpture Other</p>	
<p>What materials will you use to create your art?</p>	<p>Camera Colored Pencils Costumes Crayons Markers Music Paint Paper Pens Pencils Props (Objects used in a performance.) Other: Cotton balls, paper towel rolls, popsicle sticks, etc.</p>	
<p>What is the story you are going to tell about your plant through art?</p>	<p>You can tell a story about your plant by showing the following in your art: Plant and Humans Plant and Objects Plant and Other Nature Plant by Itself Other</p>	

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PART 5 – Now it is time to tell the story of your plant through art. Depending on the type of art you are creating, feel free to use a piece of paper or the space below to create your art. Include a title for your art.

Create Your Art

Resources

Carl Eytel (1862–1925), *Blue Larkspur (Delphinium), Blue and White Lupin (Lupinus bicolor), and Gum Plant (Grendelia cunifolia)*, 1900–1906, ink on paper. Braun Research Library Collection, Autry Museum of the American West; EYTEL.18.61

Mrs. John W. Estill, *Night Blooming Cereus*, 1913–1917, watercolor on paper. Braun Research Library Collection, Autry Museum of the American West; 14.C.602

Photo of *Off the Rails* by Randy Reinholz (Choctaw), Native Voices at the Autry. © 2015 Craig Schwartz Photography

George F. Clifton, *Crassulacea Family*, 1920s, gelatin silver print. Autry Museum of the American West; 317.G.8

Deborah Butterfield (born 1949), *Red Branch*, 2007, painted bronze. Autry Museum of the American West; 2009.77.1