Learn about Art and Activism by completing the following sections:

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Relate

In this section, learn more about **Art and Activism** by making connections to your own life.



Investigate

In this section, learn more about **Art and Activism** by investigating art that incorporates activism.



Create

In this section, share what you have learned about **Art and Activism** by creating your own art and caption label.



PART 1 – Explore art and activism by thinking about what the word community means to you. A community is a group of people who have something in common such as interests, race, ethnicity, religion, and culture. Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Family members form a family community. Teachers, students, and other school staff members form a school community. Children on a baseball team form a baseball community. People who go to the same church form a church community. Because there are so many different types of communities, many people can belong to more than one. Which communities are you a part of? Write down the different communities that you are a part of on a piece of paper or in the space below.

 My Communities



PART 2 – All communities have successes and challenges. Challenges called social issues affect communities in different ways. Social issues are the conditions, issues, or problems in a community that people want to change. Social issues can include anything from bullying and homelessness to hunger and pollution. Which social issues affect your communities? Write down the different social issues that affect your communities on a piece of paper or in the space below.

Social Issues That Affect My Communities			

#1

PART 3 – Many people want to see change in their communities. Participating in activism is a way to create change in your community. Activism is a practice that emphasizes direct action especially in support of or against one side of an issue. Examples of activism include educating others about social issues, giving money or items to those in need, participating in community cleanups, volunteering, and voting. Think of the different ways you can become involved in activism to change the social issues that affect your communities. Then write your ideas on a piece of paper or in the space below.

Ways I Can Become Involved in Activism

PART 1 – Creating art is a form of activism. Artists have been creating art as a form of activism throughout history. Artists can educate others about the different social issues affecting communities through their art. Let's *analyze* art that incorporates activism by noticing the communities and social issues represented in the art. Take a moment to look closely at this sculpture from the Autry Museum of the American West. A sculpture is a *three-dimensional* work of art made by an artist out of materials that are used in an interesting way.



Glossary

Analyze: to study or examine carefully

Three-dimensional: an object that is solid rather than flat and can be measured in three different directions, usually length, width, and height



PART 2 – After looking closely at the sculpture, describe what you see in the sculpture by writing the answers to the questions in the chart on a piece of paper or in the space below.

ART ANALYSIS QUESTIONS	MY DESCRIPTION
What colors do you see in the sculpture?	
What do you think the first color you noticed <i>represents</i> ?	
What do you think the second color you noticed represents?	
What do you think the third color you noticed represents?	
What do you think the fourth color you noticed represents?	
What shapes do you see?	
Many sculptures are made of materials like bronze or wood. This sculpture is made of everyday materials. What materials do you think this sculpture is made of?	
What do you think the materials represent?	
What else do you notice in the sculpture?	



PART 3 – Art tells stories. Make a hypothesis or educated guess about what story you think the artist is trying to tell others through this sculpture. Write your hypothesis on a piece of paper or in the space below.

	<u>My Hypothesis</u>
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PART 4 – Prove or disprove your hypothesis by reading the caption label and the artist's quote below. The caption label gives more information about the sculpture while the artist's quote describes the sculpture in the artist's own words.

Caption Label

Continuum Basket: Flora

2016

Gerald Clarke Jr. (Cahuilla)

Aluminum cans and metal satellite dish

Inspired by the designs from historic *Cahuilla* baskets in the Autry's collection, Clarke used the blue and green colors of agave and yucca, two important desert plants. He also intends this sculpture, created with crushed cans, to shed light on environmental and social issues that affect Cahuilla people today.

Artist's Quote by Gerald Clarke Jr.

"I wanted some natural colors that corresponded with plant life or with water, things associated with plant life... My family here at Cahuilla, we come from a long line of basket makers. Primarily it was women who made the baskets. I wanted to recognize that tradition, the beauty, the complexity of the tradition, but I'm an artist, I'm a sculptor, and I wanted to do it my own way... Alcoholism and diabetes have had major effects on my life personally, and I know I'm certainly not alone... How long do you have to do something before it's considered traditional? Do we have a tradition of alcoholism now? Do we have a tradition of diabetes? I would say yes."

Glossary

Cahuilla: a Native American community that has been living in the desert and mountain regions of Southern California for thousands of years

PART 5 – Now that you have learned more about the story that the artist is telling through the sculpture, answer the questions in the chart about the sculpture, caption label, and artist's quote. Write your answers on a piece of paper or in the space below

ART ANALYSIS QUESTIONS	YOUR ANSWERS
What is the title of the sculpture? Look for the title in the caption label.	
What year was the sculpture created? Look for the date in the caption label.	
Who is the artist? Look for the artist's name in the caption label and the artist's quote.	
What materials was the sculpture made out of? Look for the materials in the caption label.	
What did the different colors in the sculpture represent? Look in the caption label and the artist's quote.	
Which communities are represented in the sculpture, caption label, and artist's quote?	
Which social issues are represented in the sculpture, caption label, and artist's quote?	

#2

PART 1 – Now it is your turn to become involved in activism through art. Using materials found in your home and in nature, make a sculpture that educates others about the social issues that affect your communities. Plan your sculpture before creating it by answering the questions in the chart. Write your answers on a piece of paper or in the space below.

QUESTIONS	ANSWER EXAMPLES	MY PLAN
What materials will you use to create your sculpture?	Buttons Cans Cotton balls Crayons/markers Cups Food items Glue Paint Paper Paper towel rolls Pencils/pens Popsicle sticks Rocks Sticks Tape Other materials	
Which community/com represent in your sculp communities that you o	ture? Pick from the list of	
communities will you re	t affect your community/ epresent in your sculpture? cial issues that you created	
What animals, people, and/or things will you i	places, plants, shapes, nclude in your sculpture?	
Which colors will you u will the colors represen	ise in your sculpture? What it?	
What will your sculptur (a simple and quick dra sculpture will look like.		



#3

PART 2 – Create your sculpture using your plan.

PART 3 – After you create your sculpture, write a caption label that gives detailed information about your sculpture using the caption label format below. You can also look at the *Continuum Basket: Flora* caption label in Section 2 to help you write your own caption label. Then explain what your sculpture is about on a piece of paper or in the space below.

	<u>C</u>	aption La	bel Format	1	
Title of your sculpture					
Date the sculpture was cr	eated				
Your name					
Materials used to create t	ne sculpture				
Write a summary explaini	ng the sculptur	e.			
		<u>My Capt</u>	ion Label		



This activity was inspired by the Autry Classroom Curators partnership with Sonia Hanson of Maywood Center for Enriched Studies.

<u>Image</u>

Sculpture by Gerald Clarke, Continuum Basket: Flora, 2016. Autry Museum; 2016.22.1

Do you want to see the sculpture you created on our Instagram or Twitter? Ask an adult to send a photograph of the sculpture you made along with your name, your age, and the title of your sculpture to **outreach@theautry.org** for a chance to be featured on our social media! Accepting work from artists of all ages. Must be 18-years or older to submit.

