

Pictou County Forest School - Grade 9 Lesson Plans

Visual Arts

Activity: Forest Sculptures (Full day activities)

Specific Curriculum Outcomes:

- 9.1.1 manipulate and organize design elements to achieve planned compositions
- 9.1.2 assess and utilize the properties of various art media and their ability to convey messages and meaning
- 9.1.6 create artworks, integrating themes found through direct observation, personal experience, and imagination
- 9.2.1 invent and incorporate unique visual symbols to create personal meaning in their art

Materials:

- Found natural materials
- Jute (or other organic rope) and knives

Intro/Activation:

- Introduce the idea of living bridges, focusing on the concept that these are one of the very few human created structures that actually improve with age, which contrasts to the natural degradation of all other man-made structures using man-made materials.
- Article: <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20211117-how-indias-living-bridges-could-transform-architecture>
- Silent Sit and See/forest bathing: introduce the concept of a 'silent sit and see' or forest bathing, and prompt students to the idea of being in a space without any technology or even human contact and the idea of isolation in a natural setting.

Activity:

1. Knot lesson: quick lesson on relevant knots and lashing techniques.
2. Forest sculptures: Students are prompted to the idea of creating forest sculptures in a forest setting using found natural objects around them. This can be done along a trail or in a specific site that would suit such an art installation.

Reflections/further wonderings:

- Forest bathing: How do students feel (physically, emotionally, mentally) after spending several hours in the forest creating art?
- How do they know their forest place?
- Who and what benefits from such an art installation?