



WEEK 1

Art Studio: Construction with Natural Materials
 Children create nature sculptures using natural materials and clay.

Big Idea	Plants are part of our community.
Guiding Question	Why are plants important?
Vocabulary	<p>balance: to hold steady or still</p> <p>construction: something that is built</p> <p>natural: coming from nature, not made by humans</p> <p>sculpture: a three-dimensional artwork</p>
Materials and Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Eco Girl</i>, Ken Wilson-Max ● a variety of natural materials, such as sticks of different sizes, leaves, pinecones, small rocks, shells, flowers, acorns, pine cones, and tree nuts ● containers for the natural materials ● clay or playdough ● clay tools ● plastic forks and knives ● string ● scissors ● wire or dental floss, for cutting the clay ● trays, for children to work on ● Nature Constructions Artists Resource ● Make a Nature Sculpture visual <p>Lay out the materials on the table so that they are easily accessible to all children. Shape the clay or playdough into balls. Put out trays for children to work on.</p> <p>If space allows, consider taping a piece of butcher paper to the floor and lay the materials out there.</p> <p>Bring <i>Eco Girl</i>, the Nature Constructions Artists Resource, a clay ball, and a few samples of natural materials to the Intro to Centers meeting.</p>

<p>Intro to Centers</p>	<p><i>In Eco Girl Eve is connected to plants and animals around her, and she takes care of a growing plant.</i></p> <p><i>What do you remember about the story?</i></p> <p>As children respond, turn to corresponding pages so they can reference illustrations.</p> <p><i>Some artists are also very much connected to plants, and they use materials they find in nature to create their artworks. In the Art Studio you can begin to construct sculptures using materials we find in nature such as leaves, sticks, and clay. A sculpture is a three-dimensional artwork. Thumbs up if you have made a sculpture this year!</i></p> <p><i>You can choose what you want to create and how you will do it. Here are some photographs of artists' work to inspire you. Anya Gallaccio and Andy Goldsworthy are artists who are inspired by and use natural materials to create sculptures. What do you notice?</i></p> <p>Show the images.</p> <p><i>Here are some natural materials and clay.</i></p> <p>Show the materials.</p> <p><i>What if you want to use sticks? Maybe you can use the string to hold them together and balance them. Or maybe you can use the clay to hold them up.</i></p> <p>Model step by step.</p> <p><i>Sharing ideas and working together will help you figure out ways to use the materials to make sculptures. I can't wait to see what you come up with!</i></p>
<p>During Centers</p>	<p>Support children to select materials and to figure out ways to put them together. For example, use the clay, soft wire, or yarn to connect sticks, leaves, flowers, and stones.</p> <p>As children work, narrate their creative process, introduce descriptive vocabulary, and note any connections or similarities in their approaches. Model and scaffold step by step as needed.</p> <p>Encourage children to share strategies and to collaborate with each other.</p> <p>Share the images of artists and their sculptures, and invite children to talk about what they notice in the artworks and how they are inspired by them.</p> <p>Take videos and photos of children's creative process as they work.</p>

Differentiation ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use a core board and Center Language Support to support children with communication about their sculpture (“I put stick in,” “It’s pretty,” “I like it,” “I make sculpture”). ● Provide a variety of sizes of materials. If needed, limit the number of available materials to begin with. ● Support children with selecting materials and use Make a Nature Sculpture visual to model and support children with each step of the process. ● Invite children to just explore the materials, and notice what they look like or how they feel in their hands as they manipulate them.
Facilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What materials are you choosing to use? How did you select them? ● What words can describe your sculpture? ● What do you notice in this picture? What does it remind you of? What does it make you wonder? ● How can you balance the _____ [sticks]? ● How does it feel to touch and use natural materials? ● What is easy or hard about using these materials? ● What inspires you as you work? What are you thinking about? ● How are you collaborating and sharing ideas?
Extension	Invite children to tell stories about their nature constructions
Standards	<p>SEL1. The child will be able to recognize, identify, and express his/hers emotions</p> <p>APL2. The child will demonstrate eagerness and curiosity as a learner.</p> <p>APL4. The child will demonstrate creativity in thinking and use of materials.</p> <p>SL.PK.5. Create representations of experiences or stories (e.g., drawings, constructions with blocks or other materials, clay models) and explain them to others</p>

Image citations

balance: photo by Marina Boni

construction: <https://gregorkregar.com/portfolio/cardboard-construction/>

natural: photo by Louisa Penfold

sculpture: baystatebanner.com/2020/05/20/; soft: reviewed.usatoday.com; sound: indianexpress.com

U4 W 1-2

Art Studio: Construction With Natural Materials

Facilitation prompts:

- What materials are you choosing to use? How did you select them?
- What words can you use to describe your sculpture?
- What do you notice in this picture? What does it remind you of? What does it make you wonder?
- How can you balance the _____ [sticks]?
- How does it feel to touch and use natural materials?
- What is easy or hard about using these materials?
- What inspires you as you work? What are you thinking about?
- How are you collaborating and sharing ideas?



balance



construction



natural



sculpture

Children are learning to...

- share their feelings about using natural materials
- be creative about how to use materials.
- collaborate with others in creating nature constructions.
- describe their constructions.

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Art Studio: Nature Constructions Artists Resource

See some examples from contemporary artists who create nature sculpture.

Artist 1: Anya Gallaccio



Image from whimsylph.wordpress

This is Anya Gallaccio, a British artist who uses natural materials to create sculptures and art installations.

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Anya Gallaccio. Rêvons D'or. 2006.



Anya Gallaccio. Preserve Beauty. 1991-2003

<https://www.quintgallery.com/exhibitions/182-anya-gallaccio/>
<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/gallaccio-preserve-beauty-t11829>

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Artist 2: Andy Goldsworthy



Image from artist run website

This is Andy Goldsworthy, a Scottish sculptor, photographer, and environmentalist who makes sculptures out of natural materials such as stone, sticks, leaves, water, and flowers. You can find his sculptures in both natural and urban settings.



Andy Goldsworthy. Woven bamboo, windy..., Before the Mirror. Japan. 1987

<https://nordic-lotus.blogspot.com/2013/03/andy-goldsworthy-bamboo-in-japan.html>

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Andy Goldsworthy. Bamboo spires calm to begin with wind becoming stronger. Japan. 1987



Andy Goldsworthy. Sycamore Sticks Line. Cumbria. 1983

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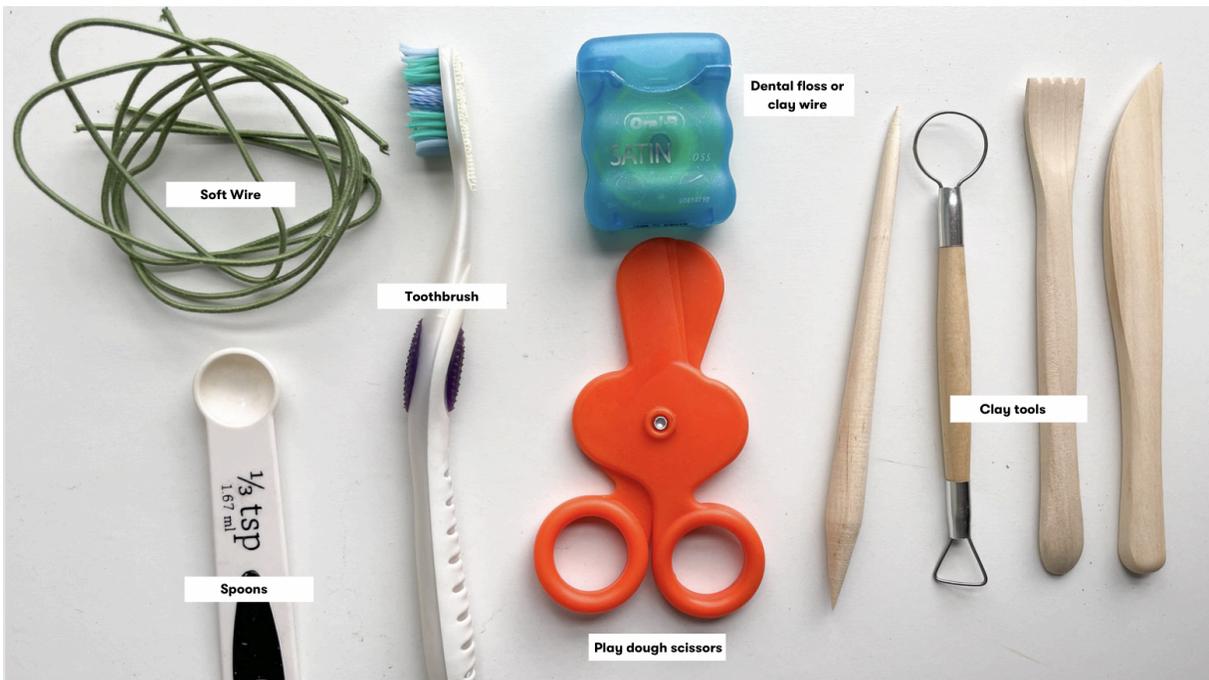
Andy Goldsworthy, 'Stacked Balanced River Stones' 1982.
river stones stacked and balanced; Cumbria, England

<https://nordic-lotus.blogspot.com/2013/03/andy-goldsworthy-bamboo-in-japan.html>
https://www.goldsworthy.cc.gla.ac.uk/image/?tid=1983_154

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Setting up the activity



Photos by Louisa Penfold

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Make a Nature Sculpture



1. Gather materials.



2. Roll or flatten a clay base.



3. Press natural materials into clay.