Introduction to Art of Collaboration

The lessons presented are all lessons that use art as a means of teaching and/or reviewing science concepts covered for 6th through 8th grade students by the North Carolina and national science standards.

I chose this topic because I wanted to find ways to engage my students in science without using traditional text. I wanted to find a way to teach science concepts so that all students, regardless of reading abilities, would be able to learn. This topic provides an out of the box approach that is fun for both the student and teacher.

I have worked with the Kenan Fellows Program for the past two years. Through the Art of Collaboration project I have worked with the North Carolina Museum of Art. I have paired with a mentor at the museum, Jill Taylor, who has guided me through the process of finding connections between works of art and science curricula and developing lessons that showcase these connections. The lessons I have created are tailored to correspond to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study as well as the Common Core State Standards for sixth through eighth grades.

These lessons all use art as a medium to teach science. Some of the lessons, not all, provide opportunities for students to create their own art. This is to give students a more hands-on approach to learning the science concept. The lessons are grouped by grade level and goal and objective from the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and the Common Core State Standards. All lessons include cross-curricular connections that can be made and lesson suggestions for these connections.

The purpose of this project is to provide an innovative way to engage students in the science curriculum. Researchers have been studying the impact of an arts integrated curriculum. These studies are showing that through integration of the arts, students of all backgrounds and learning levels show an increase in understanding and recall of materials covered when integrated with the arts. I have included links for further reading on Art/Integration/Collaboration on the second page.

Any teacher who is interested in finding an innovative and engaging way to teach science will find these lessons useful. Most lessons integrate language arts and/or social studies. This allows for cross-curricular involvement which helps to solidify the science concept by providing applications that apply outside of the classroom.

Readings on Art Integration/Collaboration:

Project Zero: <http://www.pz.harvard.edu/index.cfm>

Arts Education Partnership: <http://aep-arts.org>

Strategies for Arts Integration: <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/collection.jsp?id=457>

Extract from “The Wow Factor”, Global research compendium on the impact of the arts in education: <http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/files/30015/126660047812_USA.pdf/2%2BUSA.pdf>

Rabkin, Nick and Redmond, Robin, eds. *Putting the Arts in the Picture: Reframing Education*

*in the 21st Century*. Chicago: Columbia College. 2004.

Burnaford, Gail, Aprill, Arnold, Weiss, Cynthia, and CAPE. *Renaissance in the Classroom:*

*Arts Integration and Meaningful Learning.* Mahway, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum and Associates, 2001.

**Author Info:**

My name is Kristen Hensley. I teach at Bunn Middle School in Franklin County. For the past 6 years I have taught 6th grade Science and Social Studies. I am a National Board Certified Teacher and a Kenan Fellow. I developed my lessons through my Kenan Fellowship, The Art of Collaboration. I have designed lessons that help teachers integrate art into science lessons. Through this project I have found that integrating art into science is much easier than I first thought. The lessons are very engaging and the students love them.

Through the Kenan Fellowship program I work with a mentor from the North Carolina Museum of Art. My mentor is Jill Taylor. She works with the Art of Collaboration project at the museum. This program works with teachers from different school systems in the state and helps them to learn how to integrate art into their subject areas.