

ART OF CASTING

Teacher Resource Guide

Program Overview

TOPIC: Explore the steps of making an exhibit – painting and signage.

THEME: Museum exhibits are designed to engage and inform their audience.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Students learn how to paint realistic-looking fossil casts and about museum signage. Once back in the classroom, students can make their own museum exhibits using their painted casts. In learning about effective museum exhibits, students can apply this information to visual aids they would use in their own classroom research projects.

AUDIENCE: Grades 4 - 12

Curriculum Connections

Grade 4 Art: Colour and Texture

English Language Arts: Text Forms and Structures; Writing Processes

Grade 5 Art: Application and Alteration of Colour

English Language Arts: Text Forms and Structures; Writing Processes

Grade 6 English Language Arts: Text Forms and Structures; Writing Processes

Grade 7 Art: Use of Colour

Science: Planet Earth

English Language Arts: Express and Edit Ideas; Locate and Evaluate Sources of Information; Communicate Ideas Using a Variety of Media

Grade 8 Art: 3-D Compositions

English Language Arts: Express and Edit Ideas; Locate and Evaluate Sources of Information; Communicate Ideas Using a Variety of Media

Grade 9 Art: 3-D Compositions

English Language Arts: Express and Edit Ideas; Locate and Evaluate Sources of Information; Communicate Ideas Using a Variety of Media

Grade 10 Art: 3-D Forms

English Language Arts: Review and Organize Text; Evaluate Sources of Information; Develop Visual Presentations

Grade 11 Art: 3-D Forms

English Language Arts: Review and Organize Text; Evaluate Sources of Information; Develop Visual Presentations

Grade 12 Art: 3-D Forms

English Language Arts: Review and Organize Text; Evaluate Sources of Information; Develop Visual Presentations

Program Objectives

1. Students will paint their own cast using the same techniques as museum professionals.
2. Students will learn how the Museum creates exhibit signage to engage and inform its audience
3. Students will discuss what makes a captivating sign for a display and take that information to create their own museum exhibit back in the classroom.

Suggested Pre-Visit Activities

1. ACRYLIC PAINT PRACTICE

Have the students practice painting with acrylics. The most useful technique to practice is dry brushing, where they take very little paint and wipe most of it off before applying it to their canvas/object. Get students comfortable with using very little paint.

2. MODERN MUSEUM EXHIBITS

Have a discussion with the class about what they would like to see in modern museum exhibits. Things to think about could include virtual reality, videos, games, lighting and sound, signs, smells, and any other way an exhibit could grab their attention.

3. INFORMATIVE TWEET

After the program, students will be encouraged to write an exhibit sign for their specimen. As practice before your visit, have the students pick an object, animal, picture, or anything they would like to tell people about. Have them write a tweet about that object, getting them to focus on these four aspects in their writing: factual, interesting, simple, and short. By using a tweet, it will automatically limit their word count, and will encourage attention-grabbing writing.

Post-Program Activity

1. EXHIBIT DISPLAY

Upon returning to school, we encourage the class to finish the project by completing the following steps.

- Fill out the first half of the Art of Casting card by using the TMP Number written on the back of your cast and the Cast Identification Sheet provided to you.
- Research information about your fossil specimen to be used for your sign.
- Draft, write, and edit the text for the second half of the Art of Casting card.
- Create a mini-museum display that you can set up in your school for others to see

Useful Links and Websites

Cast Painting Time-lapse at Royal Tyrrell Museum:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jyRrrfuk0BQ>

“Why do we have museums?”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHo928fd2wE>

How to create an exhibit:

<https://digitalhistoryccsu.files.wordpress.com/2016/10/how-to-build-exhibit.pdf>

Note: Links were last accessed February 2020.

Links to websites are provided solely for your convenience. The Royal Tyrrell Museum does not endorse, authorize, approve, certify, maintain, or control these external Internet addresses and does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, efficacy, or timeliness of the sites listed.