

What is a Home?

Part I

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3rd and 4th grade

Tuesday School

Fall 2011

Fine Arts Goals Met:

26.B.2d Demonstrate knowledge and skills to create works of visual art using problem solving, observing, designing, sketching and constructing

27.B.3 Know and describe how artists and their works shape culture and increase understanding of societies, past and present.

Teacher Materials:

- Pastels
- Paper (12 x 18)
- Tape Measure

Recommended:

- Books on various animal habitats, nests, etc.
- Artist: Gabriel Akagawa – domus alvearium (beehive house)
- Artist: Katie Latona

Student Materials:

- Paper (12 x 18)
- Pastels
- Eraser
- Paper Towel

This a simple warm-up lesson for students to start thinking about their knowledge of animal habitats and their construction.

Objectives:

- Learn about animal habitats and homes through classroom discussion and a short presentation of artist examples.
- Learn how to brainstorm and plan through drawings.
- Think critically about their relationship to their home and the nature around them.

Procedure:

Prompts: *What are the names of animal homes?* (Nest, web, burrow, shell, cave, etc.) – *What materials are used to construct these homes?* (Twigs, grass, mud, garbage, etc.) – *How are our homes made?* (bricks, wood, concrete, etc.)

Fun Facts: Have class measure out nests – Largest: American bald eagle built 9ft. 6in. wide and 20ft. deep, weighed 2.2 tons – Smallest: Species of hummingbird built nest about 0.5in. half the size of a walnut shell.

Discussion: Do you think these nests affect the area around them? What about dams or webs? What will happen to these animal homes after they are abandoned?

Demo: Students will explore using pastels (if available, can substitute any drawing medium).

Pastels can be used on the side for broad marks or on the tip for thin lines. Pastels also don't need to be erased (although they can be) but can be wiped away.

Workshop: Students will draw an image depicting any ANIMAL home discussed or one we may have missed.