

eARTH WORKS

The most important fact about Spaceship Earth: an instruction book didn't come with it.
- **Buckminster Fuller**

Earth Works is an ongoing project sponsored by Art Education 2.0 that is intended to promote interdisciplinary learning activities in which teachers and students work together to study their local environment and then use the power of art to show how we can better co-exist with the natural world. Group investigations that involve different curricular perspectives and that lead to the production of paintings, murals, drawings, sculptures, websites, zines, artist books, multimedia installations, photographs, public performances, poetry, digital stories, videos, or other creative expressions are encouraged. Student projects might address:

- Raising public awareness about issues facing their local environment.
- Sharing their ideas for addressing environmental problems.
- Informing us about nature and its processes, or about environmental problems we all face on the planet.
- Exploring the characteristics, origins, and consumption of natural and man-made materials used in making art.
- Re-envisioning our relationship to nature by proposing new ways for us to co-exist with nature.
- Encouraging others to take better care of our natural resources.

Once projects are completed, teachers are encouraged to submit visual (photographs or video) and written documentation of their students' learning and accomplishments to this site for dissemination. Depending on the nature of the work, we can link to it if it is displayed elsewhere on the Web) or you can display it on our photo or video pages.

AGE GROUPS: Open to all ages.

MEDIA: Any media can be used including drawing, painting, collage, bookmaking, sculpture, murals, mosaics, printmaking, photography, video, digital imagery, multimedia presentations, and website design.

CURRICULUM AREAS: Visual Arts, Science, Environmental Studies, Geography, History, Language Arts.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT: This may vary from class to class, and school to school. While this project may involve individual students working on their own, collaborative efforts involving small groups or even whole classes are encouraged. If you plan to display student art work on this Web site at the completion of your project, you need to have completed parental permission forms on file for each of your students whose work will be displayed.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Teachers interested in discussing this project with other teachers are encouraged to join the Earth Works Group on Art Education 2.0. Contact Craig Roland to arrange to have your students' work displayed on this site, if you feel special arrangements are needed. Otherwise, you can upload photos or videos of your students' work to the site once its completed. If you do, please identify the work as connected to the Earth Works Project.

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS? Direct any comments or questions regarding the Earth Works Project to Craig Roland on Art Education 2.0.

WHAT ARE WE DOING ON EARTH?



An estimated 20 million people in communities across the United States participated in the first Earth Day celebration on April 22, 1970. The goal of Earth Day is to promote a healthy environment and a peaceful, sustainable world by teaching people the knowledge and skills required to live environmentally friendly lifestyles. It is the one day of the year that has been officially designated to focus everyone's attention, efforts and commitment to environmental issues and initiatives. A great deal of progress has been made in caring for our environment since Earth Day was born. Still, much more needs to be done in order to reclaim earth as a truly healthy place to live.

WHAT ON EARTH ARE WE DOING?

Our planet today continues to face major problems that threaten people, animals and ecosystems. Poor choices have led to acid rain, coastal pollution, deforestation, global warming, noise pollution, overflowing landfills, overpopulation, soil erosion, toxic waste, air pollution, water pollution and other environmental damage. If these and other problems are left unchecked, our future on this planet is in jeopardy!

WHAT CAN WE DO TO SAVE THE EARTH?

Millions of people show their commitment to our environment everyday through activities like recycling paper, plastics and cans; conserving energy and water; and by cleaning up their neighborhoods. These actions make a big difference. But, we need to do more. We must all recognize that environmental problems are caused by human action and do all that is humanly possible to work toward lasting solutions.

HOW CAN ART MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Many artists today are using their creative powers to help solve environmental problems by cleaning up rivers, planting trees, working with garbage and wastewater treatment systems, revitalizing urban waste sites for people and for other forms of life, raising public awareness of the rapid rate of deforestation occurring in areas of the world, and much more. In fact, the history of art is filled with examples of artists responding to environmental issues and translating ideas into works that have influenced peoples' perceptions of nature. For instance, the work of 19th century American landscape painters like Thomas Cole, Albert Bierstadt, and Thomas Moran inspired the establishment of National Park System in the U.S. Contemporary artists like Ana Mendieta and Andy Goldsworthy have used site-specific sculptures to draw attention to humans' relationship to nature. Following the lead of these and other artists, we invite teachers and students to work together to learn more about their local environment and to share their ideas and concerns through art about how we can better co-exist with the natural world.

*Please participate in the **Earth Works** Project on Art Education 2.0.*