

Arts Integration

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An approach to teaching in which students construct and demonstrate understanding through an art form. Students engage in a creative process that connects an art form and another subject area, and meets evolving objectives in both.

Arts integration demonstrates the power of art to make learning engaging, meaningful, and connected. Constructivist arts-based methods build a bridge of capability to engage students' multiple forms of intelligence by providing opportunities to tap into their creative competencies such as coherence, complexity, autonomy, creativity, playfulness, and collaboration.

Prompted by observation or phenomena, arts integration further offer students the opportunity to be re-inventors, and embody the practices that artists employ: researcher, designer, creator, director, performer, curator, or critic. These multiple paths lead to a deeper connection and expression of student experience, knowledge, and perspective. Arts integration empowers students to become imaginative participants in their own learning, and deepens their understanding of art as a means of thinking and communicating in the world.

How to Get Started

Art can be incorporated with all areas of student inquiry with cross-cutting concepts by aligning academic, art, and critical thinking objectives. Students' demonstration of learning is shared throughout the process of creating, refining and presenting a culminating artwork or performance. Encourage visual literacy by encouraging speaking, listening, and vocabulary development skills through circling back on the elements and principles of design, and connecting words with visual representations.



Consider folding arts integration into your curriculum design when students are:

- Asking questions and defining problems
- Developing and using ideas and models
- Planning and carrying out investigations
- Analyzing and interpreting content
- Using mathematics and computational thinking
- Constructing explanations and designing solutions
- Engaging in analysis of literature and text

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> Visual Art

- Challenge students with developing and clarifying thoughts, ideas, and feelings through drawing and labeling.
- Read portraits as biography, and vice versa in a handmade artists' book.
- Explore character points of view with individual character sketches paired with perspective writing.
- Consider another's experience, with collaborative student-curated photo re-creations of a historical image or photograph.
- Design and create posters or book covers with artwork that informs viewers about a character, scene, or enduring theme or symbols they will discover in the text.

> Drama and Movement

- Roll play with impromptu or team-authored response scenes, which allow students to look further into characters and their relationships.
- Incorporate tableaux: have students develop a series of still, silent performances from a scene in a story or representing a pivotal historical event.
- Interpret a natural phenomenon, such as erosion, through a collaborative, student-choreographed movement performance.

> Music and Song

- Arrange a soundtrack for any text being studied, with selections of existing music to represent the theme, characters, rising action, or climax of a poem, short story, or novel.
- Create an interpretive song in response to life, literature, or content.

> Recommended Links

National Arts Educators Association: <https://www.arteducators.org/search?topic=arts-integration>

Getty Museum: <https://learn.teachingchannel.com/video/integrating-arts-in-the-classroom-getty>

Fitchburg Art Museum: <https://fitchburgartmuseum.org/arts-integrated-lesson-plans/>

Chicago Public Schools Arts Education Department Arts Integration Toolkit:

<http://www.cpsarts.org/teachers/arts-instructional-resources/arts-integration-toolkit/>