

Nebraska State Parks Centennial Lesson Plan



Activity Title:

Park Art

Grade Level:

All grade levels

Methods:

Students will research a Nebraska State Park. In small groups, students will work together to create a mural that best symbolizes their chosen Nebraska State Park.

Materials:

Use these three online resources :

For current information about Nebraska's eight State Parks - www.outdoornebraska.gov/stateparks/

For historical information about the area in the Nebraskaland magazine - <https://nebraskaland.unl.edu/>

For information about ecoregions and wildlife species - www.outdoornebraska.gov/wildlifeguides/

Art supplies

Markers

Colored pencils

Scissors

Old outdoor magazines

Glue or glue sticks

Poster paper or large bulletin board paper

State Standards:

SS 1.3.1.c; SS 2.3.1.d; SS 2.3.2.b; SS 3.4.3.a; SS 4.3.1.a; SS 5.3.3.a

Objectives:

Students will

1. Research a Nebraska State Park.
2. Determine symbols that represent the unique features of their park.
3. Create a group mural to represent their park..

Background:

Art, as a creative expression, can be a tool to visually represent a feeling, a moment or even a place. Painters, photographers, artists across the creative spectrum have used their talent to communicate as long as humans have walked the earth. For example, Native peoples' cave drawings illustrate bison harvests.

Vocabulary:

Symbol:a mark or character used as a conventional representation of an object, function, or process

Mural:a painting or other work of art executed directly on a wall.

Step-By-Step Instructions:

1. Divide students into small groups of three or four.
2. Assign groups one of the eight Nebraska State Parks or let the group choose a park.
3. Direct them to conduct internet research following the links to the resources listed in 'Materials'.
4. Groups will use their research to create a mural that best represents their park.
5. After murals are completed, groups will present their murals to the class.
6. Presentations should include:
 - a. Name of the park.
 - b. Area in Nebraska where the park is located.
 - c. Unique park features.
 - d. What the group likes most about the park.

Focus Questions:

1. What discoveries were made that best represent your park?
2. What discoveries were made that you didn't know about Nebraska?
3. What symbols can be used to represent your park?