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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2024 Volume I: Landscape, Art, and Ecology

The Art of Understanding and Connecting through Butterflies

Guide for Curriculum Unit 24.01.03, published September 2024
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Art often serves as storytelling and it has the power to convey emotion and awareness. From an ecological standpoint, it can also support an understanding of organic life's interconnection as well as cultivate empathy for the world around us. By exploring nature in artwork with a purposeful lens, we discover new ways of seeing the value of all living things as well as their right to be on earth. This is a multispecies study that cogitates a way to think about who speaks on behalf of nature, and uses various art forms to contribute to participatory valuation and decision-making processes about nature itself, and the lives that inhabit it. More importantly, this is an analysis of a passionate immersion in the interrelated lives of monarch butterflies and humanity migrating in order to uncover new understandings, relationships, and accountabilities. The idea is to explore such connections through art and become responsive to the diversity of life that constitutes the world. The objective is to enlighten the connection between monarch butterflies and immigrants to reframe the perception of their existence, and establish a foundation for growth mindset through mindfulness and transformation.

(Developed for IB MYP Visual Arts, grades 7-8; recommended for Visual Arts, grades 6-8)

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