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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
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Art of the Mushroom

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The *Art of the Mushroom* is a visual arts unit written for students in grades 3-4. The main objective of this interdisciplinary visual arts unit is that students will experience how close observation to demonstrate their way of seeing mushrooms. Close observation can heighten our interest in, and understanding of, the natural world. Students will look closely at mushrooms through interdisciplinary learning to experience artmaking as a process. Students will create artworks made from a wide range of materials that reflect the variety of mushrooms. This interdisciplinary study of mushrooms bridges art, science and history and promotes visual literacy. Using learning progressions students will acquire a conceptual framework for thinking about their relationship to their environment. This visual art unit is centered on the mushroom motif that teachers can use to encourage students to make meaningful and aesthetically dynamic art. It teaches students patience and to appreciate what can be overlooked or underappreciated.

(Developed for Visual Arts, grades 3-4; recommended for Visual Arts, grades 3-4)

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