
Cloud Art

This activity can be a pleasant change of pace for the students, letting them enjoy the outdoors while sketching cloud formations into familiar objects.

- Goal:** Students will sketch in their journals whimsical and interesting cloud formations as they see them in the sky, helping to them focus of this elusive element.
- Objective:** Have students sketch at various different times of the day different cloud formations they see overhead. Let them enjoy the solitude of this activity in their 'quiet spot.' Sketching in different types of weather is also recommended, so students have the opportunity to see drastic changes in cloud formations.
- Grade:** 7-9
- Time:** One or two 45-minute class period
- Materials:** Journal, pen/ pencil
- Procedure:** To begin this activity, read aloud to students Thomas Locker's book *Cloud Dance*, showing them the many colors and formations clouds can take. Discuss briefly the colors, brush strokes, the light and dark tones the artist utilizes.

To give a brief foundation of clouds, teachers can discuss the information at the back of this book concerning clouds.

- How high does the sky reach?
- How are clouds formed?
- How many kinds of clouds are there?
 - Cirrus-high-level wispy clouds
 - Cumulus-low-level puffy clouds
 - Stratus-low-level puffy clouds
 - Cirrocumulus-high-level thin, patchy clouds
- Why are clouds different colors?

Then let the students spend a good portion of the class period in their 'quiet spot', sketching their own renditions. Upon completion, let students share several sketches with the class.

Additional Note: Making copies of their sketches, students can make a class display or collage with their artwork.

Core Standard: Standard 1, obj. 3; Standard 4, obj. 2

Source: Locker, Thomas, *Cloud Dance*, Silver Whistle Harcourt, Inc., Hong Kong.

Content Standards

AZ: **SC** S6C2; **LA** LA-S4

CO: **SC** #4.2; **LA** R/W #4

NM: **SC** (8) II III II 2

UT: **SC** (4) Std 2, Obj1a; **LA** (3-6) Std 7, Obj 1-2