

## Objectives

- Students will research how plants are used to benefit man, and draw a picture showing how our lives are connected to plants.

## Teacher Preparation

On a small pieces of paper (one for every student) write the name of a plant that is used to make something people use. Put the slips of paper in the paper bag or box.

## Introduction

We use plants every day. In fact we couldn't live without plants. Discuss with students different day-to-day uses of plants:

- Show a piece of paper. What plant does paper come from? Discuss.
- Show a piece of cotton cloth. What plant does this fabric come from? See if students know of any other plants we used to make clothes. (Linen from flax, grasses used by Native Americans and Hawaiians and other island people).
- Show a piece of fruit. How many things do we eat that are made out of this fruit? Discuss what plants people in different parts of the world eat.

Show the SMA images *Dreaming of Zion* by Lee Greene Richards, *Grandma was a Story Teller* by Judith Ann Mehr and *Richard's Camp* by James Taylor Harwood. With each of the pictures, ask the following questions:

- What do you see in the picture?
- What items in these pictures are made from plants?
- Do you have any of these items in your own home?

## Learning Activity

Let students draw a piece of paper out of the bag and choose a book or photo copy to research the plant to find out what things are made from it, where it grows, and what its characteristics are, etc.

Student's may work together in groups as they learn about their different plants and their unique uses.



Judith Ann Mehr, *Grandma was a Story Teller*, 2000

## Materials

- Images of Portraits (See Images from the Museum)
- Pencils
- 9x12 drawing paper
- Erasers
- Crayons
- 12x18 construction paper
- Library books about plants or photo copies of pages that will show the plant from which things are made
- Samples of pictures of the following: Cotton plant, pine or fir tree, bamboo, acorn, maple or oak leaf, straw, a willow branch and a wheat stalk

## Images from the Museum

- James Taylor Harwood, *Richard's Camp, Holiday Park-Weber Canyon*
- Lee Greene Richards, *Dreaming of Zion*
- Judith Ann Mehr, *Grandma was a Story Teller*

## Utah Core Standards

Integrated Core  
Standard III Objective 1a  
Observe and draw pictures of plants

Integrated Core  
Standard III Objective 1b  
Identify how people use plants (e.g. food, clothing, paper, shelter)

Visual Art Standard  
Contextualizing - Apply visual arts to cultures and all learning

## Art Making Activity

Students will draw and color a picture of something that is made from the plant (s) they have researched. Add words to their drawing that relate to the plant from which their object is made. (ex. Pine trees grow best in sandy well drained soil. They are used to make lumber to build houses and make furniture; so the student could write pine tree, sandy soil, furniture or houses to their image.)

Mount drawings on construction paper. Create a classroom display of their drawings.

Note: If possible, the writing should be part of the drawing. If students have trouble with this let them use a smaller paper for their drawing and do the writing on a separate paper, but display them together.

## Assessment

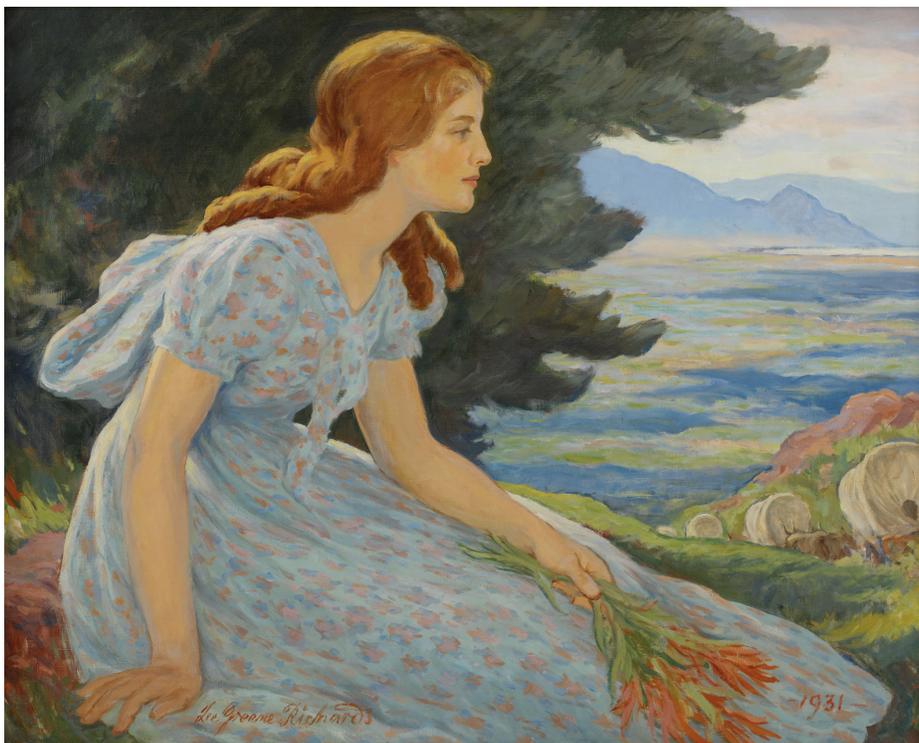
Have students show their artwork and tell about the plant (s) their object was made from. Discuss what new information they learned about the plant/tree.

## Variation

Start with the objects and have the students draw the plants from which the objects are made. A demonstration of how to draw a plant from observation will probably be necessary so students will understand that their drawing must show the distinguishing characteristics of the plant.

## Extensions

- Mount the artwork and/or the statement on construction paper and display.
- Discuss what people might use to make houses if they don't have wood.
- Discuss what other things people use to make clothes.



Lee Grande Richards, *Dreaming of Zion*, 1931



Judith Ann Mehr, *Grandma was a Story Teller*, 2000



Lee Grande Richards, *Dreaming of Zion*, 1931



James Taylor Harwood, *Richard's Camp*, 1931