

Unit Overview:

Wunderkammer

Key Concepts

- i. Curiosity
- ii. Wonder
- iii. Experimentation

Essential Questions

- i. Why is curiosity important for humans?
- ii. What does it mean to be curious?
- iii. How do artists and museums contribute to society?

Standards of Learning

National Art Standards: Cr.1.1, Cr.2.1, Pr.6.1, Re.76.2
Virginia Art SOLS: K.1, K.3, K.11, K.13, K.16
Virginia Math SOLS: K.10, K.15

Target Student Group

Kindergarten art class; urban; school (G.H. Reid Elementary School)

Unit Layout

Wunderkammer

Students describe experiences with museums and identify their different purposes. Students learn about the history of Wunderkammer and hunt through different examples. Students experiment with watercolor color mixing and salt to create painted papers.

Curious Artist

Through whole group discussion, students define curiosity and identify ways to be curious in everyday life. Students cut their painted papers into 'jars' and glue on 'lids.' Student then glue yarn down in different lines to create stems.

Growing Something New

Students participate in an imagination activity, traveling to another world. Students identify the different parts of plants. Students then create their own alien plants within their wonder jars by stamping with recycled materials onto the stems. These jars are displayed in a collective Cabinet of Curiosity.

Specific Unit Objectives

Students will collaboratively define curiosity and practice being a curious artist through imagination exercises, observation-based hunts, and material experimentation.

Students will identify the uses of museums and explore the collections housed within different wunderkammer, or Cabinets of Curiosity, from across history.

Students will practice watercolor and color mixing techniques by creating a watercolor and salt background paper.

Students will refine cutting and gluing skills in order to transform their papers into wonder jars.

Students will identify different plant parts, types of lines, and shapes in order to construct their alien plant inside their wonder jars out of yarn stems and stamped leaves and flowers.

Example of student work by Carlos



Left: Image of historical wunderkammer

Right: Detail of screenprint "Curiosity Cabinet II" by Sakurasnow

