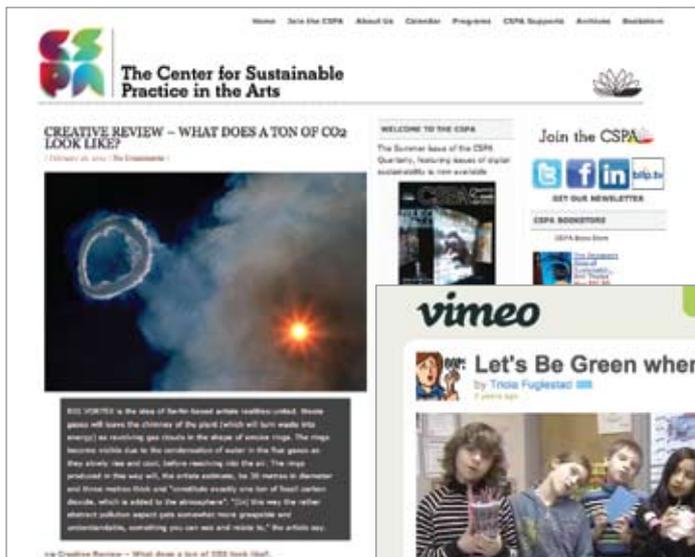


Wired to the Natural World



Theresa McGee

You can easily make the art-science connection in your art

curriculum with ecology if you know where to look. Begin your eco-journey by exploring the following online resources, and bring the outdoor environment into your artroom.

Ecology and Art

Learn how to integrate ecology into your curriculum starting with the Green Museum (greenmuseum.org/c/aen). This website hosts a variety of cultural tools for teachers in addition to a great online exhibition showcasing contemporary ecology art and artists.

Discover blogs related to art and ecology from which you can draw lesson inspiration. Some of my favorites include Design Squish (www.blog.designsquish.com), Ecoviz (ecoviz.org), and Center for Sustainable Practice in the Arts (www.sustainable-practice.org).

Eco-Art Practice and Multimedia

Explore how artists have connected with problems that face our natural world through Art21's online "Ecol-

ogy" episode (goo.gl/wUUVl).

You can also teach your students about ecology on a daily basis as you take eco-friendly practices directly into your artroom. Watch the student-created video "Let's Be Green When We Clean" and connect paper and water waste to societal problems such as deforestation and water quality around the world (vimeo.com/3009312).

Eco-Interactives

The Museum of Science offers another online interactive, Aviary Architect, which emphasizes the importance of good design for animal habitats (tinyurl.com/AviaryDesign). This allows users to utilize design concepts while creating a sustainable home for birds living in different regions throughout the world. Use Aviary Architect as an online activity alone, or extend these virtual habitats into an art production.

Another online interactive called Phototropism (goo.gl/8CtzZ) lets you

create sculpture inspired by plants. This site allows the manipulation of futuristic materials that react to environmental conditions, creating a unique sculpture installation in cyberspace.

Explore Our World

Teach about texture, line, and composition while exploring our natural world with Photosynth (photosynth.net). This online tool, organized by categories such as forests, insects, and archaeology, allows you to pan around the image or zoom in with great detail.

Use Google Maps (maps.google.com) and Google Earth (earth.google.com) to learn about eco-art installations from around the world. Begin your tour at the map, Environmental Art Around the Globe (goo.gl/oux9D), which includes embedded views of art installations and beautiful abstracted satellite images.

Online resources and technology can bring students closer to the natural world when a field trip isn't possible. These are a few approaches to raise awareness of our natural environment and our relationship to it as artists. 🌿

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