

Field Trip Extension

Nature in Art

GRADES: 3–6

During their visit to The Phillips Collection, students will engage with the beauty of artworks inspired by the natural world. Using close looking strategies, they will identify elements of art and draw conclusions about how nature motivates and influences artists. Students will think critically about the impact humans have on the natural world as they use art to express their own relationship with the environment.

Before or after your field trip at The Phillips Collection, consider teaching with one or more of the following lesson plans connected to your tour theme. Adapt these lessons to your classroom by expanding on existing curricular units or sparking ideas for new units. The lessons utilize the Phillips's [Prism.K12 arts integration strategies](#) and include a range of discussion topics, artmaking activities, guiding questions, writing prompts, strategies for looking at art, contextual information, and more.

[Art and Nature: The Work of Alma Thomas](#)

SCIENCE

Observe your surroundings and create artworks inspired by nature, just as artist Alma painted.

[A Sense of Place](#)

ELA, SOCIAL STUDIES

After learning about the lives and styles of artists Alma Thomas and Helen Frankenthaler, students will begin to understand what abstraction is and create their own abstract drawings inspired by places significant to them or Thomas and Frankenthaler.



[Honoring Nature: The Art of David Driskell](#)

SCIENCE

Examining the art of David Driskell, students will understand the importance of nature to his work and to our world. Students will then discuss ways to protect the environment and create artworks that honor it.

[Lawrence's Artistic Process - Shapes and Lines](#)

MATH

After closely looking at Jacob Lawrence's panels, students will identify various lines and the shapes they form. After defining the difference between "geometric" and "biomorphic," students will then create artworks using both kinds of shapes to represent their own neighborhoods.

NEXT PAGE >>>

Discover more lesson plans at phillipscollection.org/lesson-plans

David Driskell, *Pond Iced Over* (from the "Doorway" Portfolio), 2009, Screenprint, 15 x 12 in., The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC, Purchase, The Hereward Lester Cooke Memorial Fund, 2009; © Cardinal Point Press.

PHILLIPS
The Phillips Collection

Nature in Art

Reading Archival Materials as Art: Pierre Bonnard

ELA

Through intentional pairing of an artwork and the archives, students will apply close looking strategies to one of Pierre Bonnard's paintings and a piece of his correspondence. They will connect information in the painting with historic details to contextualize the past. Lastly, they will express their own artistic point of view by reinterpreting a painting in an artmaking activity.

The Abstract Art of Alma Thomas

SCIENCE

Learn about the history of Apollo 11's launch to the moon through Alma Thomas's art. Compare the emotional effects of abstract versus representational art. Then, students will create their own abstract art like Thomas.

A Room with a View

ELA

Through close observation and comparison of window scenes by Pierre Bonnard and Richard Diebenkorn, students will write haikus and dialogues between the two women depicted. Then students will create cards with window scenes, providing a look into their own worlds.

Finding Beauty in the World

SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES

Learn about the life of Alma Thomas and how nature inspired her abstract artworks. After identifying what they find beautiful, students will use various colors and patterns to design their own Alma Thomas-inspired artworks.

Life in the South - Failing Crops

SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES

Students will learn about the economy of the southern United States in the 1910s to 1920s. After discussing the impact of failing crops on African Americans living in the South at the time, students will conduct independent research to synthesize their findings and inform an informational poster design.