

Sights and Sounds

Learning Through the Arts



RESPOND to the sights and sounds around you. Sometimes we are so familiar with our surroundings that it is easy to take sounds and sights for granted. Observation and careful listening are important ways to learn.



CONNECT what you hear and see with how you feel. Close your eyes and listen. What sounds help you feel calm and relaxed? What sounds make you feel excited or irritated? Why does some loud talk frighten you, even if you can't understand the words that are being said? How does some talk put you at ease, even if the words are too quiet to understand?

How can visuals communicate as clearly as spoken and written language? Does looking at lush trees or green fields inspire or relax you while looking at strong waves or wild river rapids frighten you?

Consider how the arts invite us to listen to sounds and look at images in ways that communicate. The arts enable us to explore common experiences in new ways.



CREATE a pattern of shapes and colors that can be "read" by others. Use lines, forms, textures, and harmonious or disconnected elements and convey a message without using words.



PRESENT your art to a small group and have each person either read the art as if it provided words or hum the art as if it presented musical tones. After all of your team's art has been presented and everyone has provided their word or music interpretations, discuss insights about the relationships between sounds, sights, and communication.

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