



DALLAS ARBORETUM
Education

Garden STEAM at Home
Arp, Art & Intuition:
Connections



WE GROW MINDS, TOO.



OBJECTIVE:

STUDENTS WILL EXPLORE ABSTRACT ART AS A METHOD TO SHARE THEIR SCIENCE LEARNING.

SOURCE

DickBlick.com

BACKGROUND

Dick Blick's Arp, Art & Intuition lesson plan asks students to explore abstract art through a lens of pioneer artist, Jean (Hans) Arp. Using pieces of string, kids create their own abstract shapes from which to build an art piece. This activity can work with any science lesson, but could be particularly exciting as a method to display learning about food chains or food webs, life cycles or regular and repeating patterns.

Educators and parents can readily increase the rigor of this activity. See our suggestions below!

Note: This is an excellent activity to guide discussion on student misconceptions about cycles in nature. Students often assume that food chains begin with the sun and end with decomposition, rather than understanding all steps are equally necessary parts of a larger system. The abstract lines of this activity can be used to reinforce this concept.

TAKE IT FURTHER

1. Vocabulary: Use a word list for a specific topic as the starting point. Write each word along one of the string lines and then add an illustration for each word (e.g. predator, prey, producer, consumer)
2. Life Cycle: Illustrate a complete life cycle using pictures, words and colors.
3. Regular and repeating patterns: Illustrate one or multiple regular and repeating patterns including seasons, moon phases, shadows, and tides.
4. Food chain/Food web: Illustrate a complete food chain or food web using a combination of words and pictures in the spaces provided.

DIGITAL RESOURCES

Dick Blick Arp, Art & Intuition Lesson Plan:

<https://assets.ctfassets.net/f1fikihmjtrp/6pqP8qaaNOAh6f5O2GQiuA/0956232b796b135c6acff84baac98edf/arp-art-and-intuitioni-art-intuition.pdf>