



materials for the arts

Science: Biome Collages

Teacher: John Taylor

Title of Lesson Plan: Biome Collages – Visual Representation of Earth’s Diverse Ecosystems

Learning Objective: To have the students apply knowledge gained from having read *The Biology of Place: Bionics and Landscapes*, an essay by E.O Wilson, excerpted from his book *Life on Earth* . The activity is designed with this work in mind and applies a visual strategy to help fortify their relationships to the biodiversity of ecosystems on our planet.

Background: After reading the essay students are asked to find two color pictures from any periodicals which they feel represents a living organism or landscape for two specific biomes. They are given a number of days to complete this portion of the assignment.

Procedure:

1. On the day that students are to bring in their images, they are broken up into groups of four or five students.
2. Each group is charged with the following task; each student will share their images amongst the group and explain why they think it is an image that represents each biome and then the group must decide which images are representative of each biome.
3. Once this has been completed, the teacher will explain how to construct a collage using the images that the students have provided. Large blank sheets of paper with the name of one biome are hanging in the room, or out on the table that accessible to the students.
4. Students will then post their images on the boards.
5. Once the collages are completed, they need to be hung so that they can easily be viewed.
6. Teachers will then facilitate a discussion of what students observe about the posters, posing questions such as, “what are the similarities” and “what are the differences,” and “how this relates to biodiversity.”
7. Finally, the students will write a reflection on the biodiversity of ecosystems on our planet.