

Arts Integration
Project Description of Unit/Plan/Lesson

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School District: Williamston Community Schools

School Building: Discovery Elementary

Principal: Bronwyn Cobb Email: CobbB@gowcs.net

Description of the arts integration project:

Beth, Liz and I are returning to last year's project "A Mastodon is not a Dinosaur!" This project is developed for our Young 5's students.

I have a personal connection to our project in that the female mastodon displayed at the University of Michigan's Exhibit Museum of Natural History was discovered on my grandfather's farm in Henderson, Michigan during the 1940's.

We decided to return to this project because of the success and fun our students had last year learning about mastodons, but also because we see possibilities to expand and change some elements.

Our project integrates science and literacy Kindergarten GLCES with dance/movement, music, sculpture and painting. Our students will be researching mastodons by: learning how they used their 5 senses to survive, comparing and contrasting to dinosaurs, learning about habitats and fossils. The information our students gather will help them to write informative, non-fiction books to share with other students and parents. Using dance/movement and music our students will help create and then perform a "mastodon dance" that incorporates information learned. Using painting and sculpture our students will create a 3-D diorama of a mastodon's habitat. Along the way students will also be taking part in an interactive, age-appropriate fossil presentation from the DeVries Nature

Conservancy (Owosso, Michigan), as well as sifting through 20,000 year old dirt from a mastodon dig in New York. To conclude our project, students will travel to the University of Michigan's Exhibit Museum of Natural History to visit our mastodon and take part in a museum program. We will showcase our learning during a performance of the "mastodon dance" at our Discovery Club (assembly), as well as during a parent/special guest celebration.

Our project is scheduled to take place during January, February and March.