

“Movement phrase: A series of movements that complete an idea.”

- Beth Post, Lynette Overby, and Diane Newman:
Interdisciplinary Learning Through Dance

Kennedy Center’s definition of Arts Integration

Arts Integration is an **approach to teaching**
in which students construct and demonstrate **understanding**
through an **art form**.
Students engage in a **creative process**
which **connects** an art form and another subject area
and meets **evolving objectives** in both.

Benefits of Arts Integrated lessons:

1. Arts integration practices are aligned with how students learn.

Ongoing research about how humans learn supports constructivist theories of learning¹. These theories reflect the characteristics of effective learning which include learning that is active and experiential, reflective, social, evolving, and focused on problem-solving. Arts integration provides learning experiences that reflect all these characteristics.

2. Arts integration energizes teachers by providing increased professional satisfaction.

Teachers that have been relying primarily on textbooks and worksheets as instructional strategies report that they feel increasingly discouraged by the drudgery of teaching and the lack of student engagement. Many become bored or disenfranchised, and even leave the profession.

Teachers participating in arts integration programs say that arts integration puts them back in touch with what originally excited them about teaching. They want classrooms full of engaged, curious, and responsive students. They want to do what is best for student learning. They want to be excited about going into the classroom every day.

From the ArtsEdge, Kennedy Center website:

<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/educators/how-to/arts-integration-beta/why-arts-integration-beta/why-two-big-reasons-beta.aspx#why-arts-integration-reason-2>

Examples of Arts Integrated activities using movement phrases

Growing Seedlings – Dance and Science

Dance concepts addressed:

Body shapes: straight, curved, angular, twisted, wide, narrow, open, closed

Science concepts addressed:

Seed growth:

1. Seed buried in soil
2. Sprouts root
3. Roots grow down
4. Seed pushes up through soil
5. Plant grows up
6. Leaves sprout

Grouping: individual

Factory Assembly Line – Dance and Social Studies

Dance concepts addressed:

Directions: forward, backward, right side, left side, up, down, clockwise, and counterclockwise

Social Studies concepts addressed:

Industrialized factory work, the assembly line. Every worker performs one task and only one task, like someone in an auto plant installs the tires on the car, so he specializes in the particular task, as opposed to the old world artisan who would make an entire product, piece by piece by himself.

Each person must contribute his or her part to the packaging of a fruitcake.

Grouping: small groups of 6-8

Rainforest Life – Dance and Science

Dance concepts addressed:

Qualities of movement: sustained, collapsing, swinging, jittery, floating, hanging, creeping

Science concepts addressed:

Identifying plants and animals of the rainforest.

Grouping: small groups of 3

Plant and animal examples

Ulysses Butterfly:

The brilliant blue of this butterfly makes the Ulysses unmistakable, but oddly it also makes it hard for birds to catch. Much like catching fireflies, the flashes of color are so distracting that the path of the insect is hard to predict.

Gaudy Leaf Frog

The bright colors (orange toes and cream-and-purple stripes) helps to attract a mate, yet the frogs also need to lay low during the day to avoid being discovered and eaten. By sitting on his hands and feet, pulling his elbows and knees to his sides, and closing his eyes during the daytime (while asleep) a male frog becomes nothing but leafy green.

Walking Sticks

What appears to be wood walks! What was once walking suddenly turns into a twig! While this camouflage allows the walking-stick insect to sleep during the day and feed at night, it tricks many birds and monkeys of a meal.

Spider Monkeys

Spider monkeys are large in size. Adult monkeys grow to be almost two feet tall excluding the tail. They have a powerful tail that they use as an extra limb. They like to hang upside-down with all four limbs and the tail holding on to branches that make them look like a spider and thus their name. They also have the ability to swing from branch to branch at a high speed.

Orchids

These flowering plants come in different shapes, sizes, and colors. Their roots are exposed, not buried in dirt, as they hang from trees and breathe the air. They attract birds and insects with their beautiful colors and wonderful smell!

The Strangler Fig Tree

This tree uses another tree to climb up to the sunlight. As they grow, they wrap around the old tree until it dies and only the strangler fig remains.