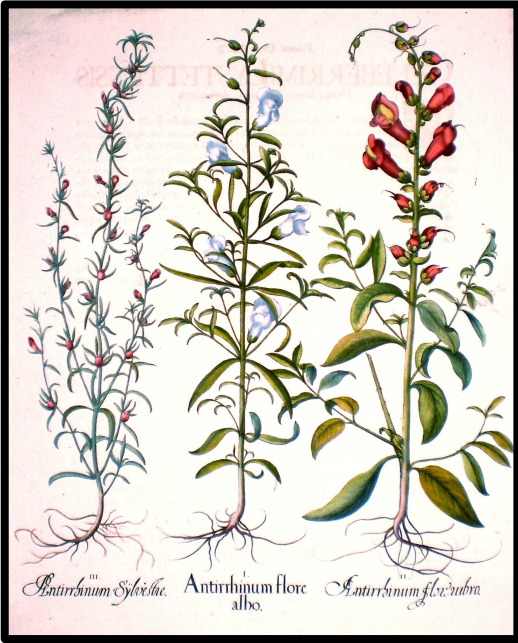


In My Own Back Yard

Art Connections



Primary:

“Adopt” a plant you find growing in the schoolyard or your lawn.

- What is the name of the plant?
- Where does it like to grow?

Lesson

Find an example of the plant that is full grown. Use coloured pencils to draw and colour a *botanical* picture of the plant. Be sure to include the roots, stem, leaves, and flowers.

Hints:

- A botanical drawing includes only the plant--no grass or sky.
- The plant is in the middle of the page.
- Use *shading* to draw the different colour *values* you see on the leaves and flowers.

- Use very neat printing to print the name of your plant below your picture.

Extension: Use heavy books and newspapers to press your plant. Leave it under the books for a week. Use your pressed plant in a collage along with other found objects, photographs, drawings, and/or text on a stiff surface, like canvas board, illustration board, foam core, or cardboard.

Art History Connections:

1. The University of Delaware had an exhibition in 2001 featuring Botanical art. They have a website dedicated to this exhibition, with many examples of botanical drawings, their artists, and their uses.

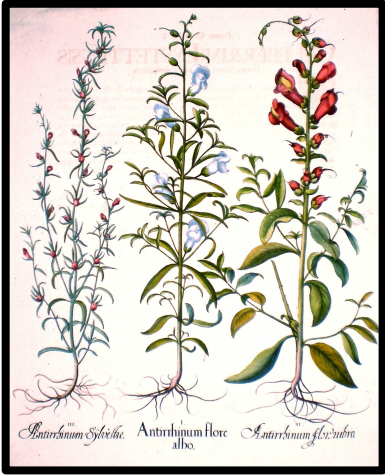
<http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/exhibits/hort/>

2. The following is a link to Mary Abma’s Herbarium page. Here, the plants are pressed and collaged onto masonite panels, over text and paint:

<http://www.maryabma.com/artworks/herbarium-of-lot-161-plan/>

In My Own Back Yard

Art Connections



Junior:

“Adopt” a plant you find growing in the schoolyard or your lawn.

- What is the common name of the plant? What is its Latin name?
- What is its habitat?

Lesson 1

Find an example of the plant that is full grown. Use watercolour to paint a *botanical* painting of the plant. Be sure to include the roots, stem, leaves, and flowers.

Hints:

- A botanical painting includes only the plant--no grass or sky.
 - The plant is in the middle of the page.
- Use *shading* techniques to express the different colour *hues and values* you see on the leaves and flowers.
 - Use very neat printing based on your favourite font to print the name of your plant below your picture. Make sure that the printing is centered. Go over your lettering in ink.

Lesson 2: Use heavy books and newspapers to press your plant. Leave it under the books for a week. While it is pressing, do some research about your plant. From where does it come? Is it used for any purpose, like medicine or food? Does it cause any problems? Select some key words or phrases from your research. Print them out in large, interesting fonts. You will use these later.

Use your pressed plant and words/phrases in a collage along with other found objects, photographs, drawings, etc. on a stiff surface, like canvas board, illustration board, foam core, or cardboard. Create this collage to express your ideas about what you learned about your plant. Create unity in the collage by choosing colours and textures that work well together and by applying a layer of watercolour or other thin paint over top of it.

Write an Artist's Statement to display with your work.

Art History Connections:

1. The University of Delaware had an exhibition in 2001 featuring Botanical art. They have a website dedicated to this exhibition, with many examples of botanical drawings, their artists, and their uses.

<http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/exhibits/hort/>

2. The following is a link to Mary Abma's Herbarium page. Here, the plants are pressed and collaged onto masonite panels, over text and paint:

<http://www.maryabma.com/artworks/herbarium-of-lot-161-plan/>

In My Own Back Yard

Art Connections



Intermediate:

“Adopt” a plant you find growing in the schoolyard or your lawn.

- What is the common name of the plant? What is its Latin name? To what *family* does it belong?
- What is its habitat?

Lesson

Find an example of the plant that is full grown. Collect a specimen of this plant. Use ink and **contour lines** to make a *botanical* drawing of your plant. Be sure to include the roots, stem, leaves, and flowers. Set this aside. You will use it later.

Use heavy books and newspapers to press your plant. Leave it under the books for a week. While it is pressing, do some research about your plant. From where does it come? Is it used for any purpose, like medicine or food? Does it cause any problems? Is it native or non-native? Is it invasive? Select several key words or phrases (enough to fill one 8/12 X 11” sheet of paper) from your research. Print them out in reverse in large, interesting fonts. Use a pen to transfer the text in an interesting arrangement onto a stiff

surface, like canvas board, illustration board, foam core, or cardboard. Trace your botanical drawing onto the surface, using graphite and a pen to transfer the image. Don't be afraid to overlap it with the text. (Use a soft pencil to scribble graphite onto the back of your drawing, then tape the original drawing, face up, to the stiff surface. Trace the original drawing with pen. A copy will transfer to your surface.) Use paint to unify the text into a painting in which you express your feelings about your plant using colour and gesture.

Finally, use thinned glue or acrylic medium to incorporate your pressed plant into your artwork by attaching it to the surface of your dried painting. Think carefully about where to put the plant. Do not centre it. Instead, decide where its placement would create balance and harmony in the painting. Glaze over the entire painting with the thinned glue or acrylic medium to finish the surface and to further unify the elements.

Write an Artist's Statement to display with your work.

Art History Connections:

1. The University of Delaware had an exhibition in 2001 featuring Botanical art. They have a website dedicated to this exhibition, with many examples of botanical drawings, their artists, and their uses.

<http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/exhibits/hort/>

2. The following is a link to Mary Abma's Herbarium page. Here, the plants are pressed and collaged onto masonite panels, over text and paint:

<http://www.maryabma.com/artworks/herbarium-of-lot-161-plan/>