



Nature Sculpture Teaching and Teacher Professional Development
Art to Action on Harwood Creek With Mahalia Ryba's Class From John Muir School

Supported by ALICE - Arts & Literacy in Children's Education
Spring, 2008

GOALS:

- 1) Introduce students to the environmental art-form of nature sculpture, giving them skills and inspiration to create and appreciate this medium. Because nature sculpture is temporary, a particular aim is to lead students to appreciate the artistic process as distinct from the end product.
- 2) Kindle curiosity about and respect for the natural world.
- 3) Through collaborative art-making, convey the power of and challenges inherent in collective work. Give students skills for decision making and task allocation in small and large groups, and the opportunity to apply those skills in art making and in creating the online project report.
- 4) Inspire the classroom teacher to use nature sculpture in her curricula, and to teach her techniques and skills that she can use to lead her students in collaborative art-making in nature.
- 5) Incorporate the following third grade Visual Arts Content Standards of the California State Board of Education:
 - 1.1 Perceive and describe rhythm and movement in works of art and in the environment.
 - 1.4 Compare and contrast two different works of art made by the use of different art tools and media.
 - 1.5 Identify and describe elements in works of art, emphasizing line, color, shape/form, texture, space, and value.
 - 3.3 Distinguish and describe representational, abstract, and nonrepresentational works of art.
 - 4.1 Compare and contrast selected works of art and describe them, using appropriate vocabulary of art.
 - 4.2 Identify successful and less successful compositional and expressive qualities of their own works of art and describe what might be done to improve them.
 - 4.3 Select an artist's work and, using appropriate vocabulary of art, explain its successful and compositional and communicative qualities.
 - 5.2 Write a poem or story inspired by their own works of art.