

shaping connections to  
**art & nature**

**Learning Points:**

- **Respond** to sculptures through the lens of natural forms, patterns, and materials and how artists use nature for inspiration.
- **Connect** artists' ideas and works to your personal life.
- **Create** and present a small, nature-inspired artwork.
- **Practice** scientific skills—observing, comparing, describing patterns, and understanding environmental connections.

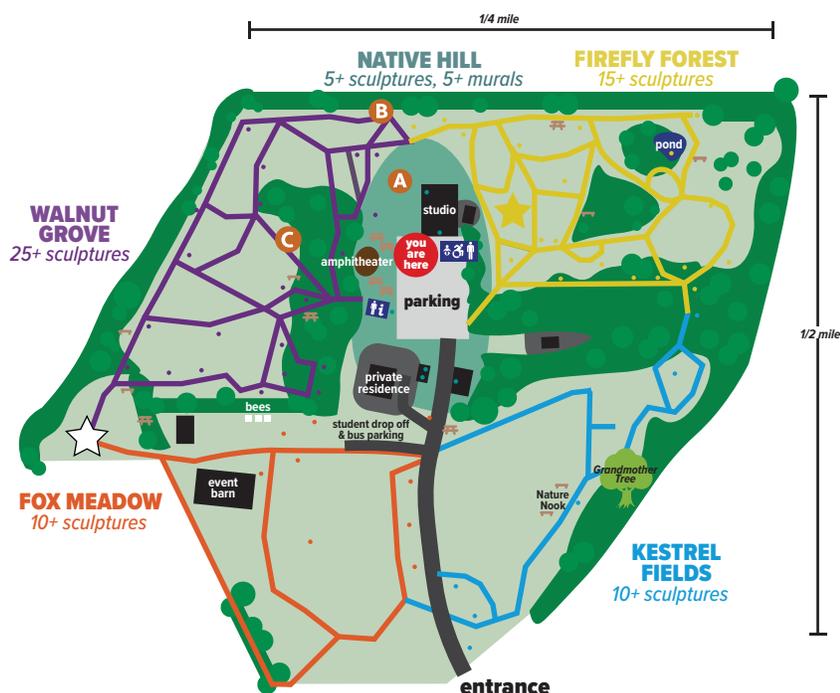
**Kentucky Academic Standards:**

- **Science:** K-PS2-1, KPS3-1, K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, KESS3-3, 1-LS1-1, 1-ESS1-2, 2-PS1-1, 2-PS1-3, 2-LS4-1, K-2-ETS1-2, 3-PS2-2, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 4-LS1-1, 4-ESS2-2, 5-ESS3-1, 3-5-ETS1-1
- **Visual & Performing Arts:** VA:Cr1.1.K-5, VA:Cr1.2.K, VA:Cr2.1.3, VA:Cr2.3.1, VA:Cr3.1.1, VA:Cr3.1.2, VA:Pr4.1.K, VA:Pr6.1.2, VA:Pr5.1.3, VA:Pr6.1.4, VA:Pr5.1.5, VA:Re7.2.K, VA:Re8.1.1-4, VA:Re7.1.2-5, VA:Re8.1.K, DA:Cr1.1.K-4

**Before You Visit:** Review foundational art concepts and vocabulary with [KET PBS Learning Media's "Responding to Art" video](#) and lesson plan resources.

Then, watch [this video](#) of a family exploring the park, and engage students' reflections and questions. Review how to explore the park at [josephinesculpturepark.org/visit](http://josephinesculpturepark.org/visit).

**Supplies:** Air dry clay, washable markers.



**Sculpture Walk - 15 Minutes** Gather around the map kiosk beside the Art Barn or in the amphitheatre. Introduce Josephine Sculpture Park as a place where art and nature connect. Lead a short walk to up to 3 sculptures, such as:



A

### Leticia Bajuyo's *Share a Share* (*Duyan: Ibahagi ang Balato*)



**Guiding Questions:** What materials from nature do you notice in this sculpture? What animal does this sculpture remind you of?

This sculpture is made of steel, wood, and concrete. Leticia Bajuyo's art is inspired by her Philippine heritage. This sculpture connects to the Philippine "Gamba" folktale about the creation of a spider, and the structure mimics a spider's legs and web.



**Move & Play:** Work with your friends to respectfully (gently) swing on the sculpture at the same time!



B

### Kari Reardon's *Lee*



**Guiding Questions:** What shapes from nature do you notice in this sculpture? If this sculpture were alive, where would it live? What would it eat? How would it spend its days? How would it survive predation? Why, or how do you know?

The artist, Kari, uses her personal memories and dreams, as well as biology and fairy tale characters, to inspire her art. She uses mixed media, like the steel and stone used in *Lee*, to play with texture and the blur between organic and human-made materials. She likes that her sculptures seem to be growing or moving!



**Move & Play:** Invite students to move like this sculpture if it were an animal. Would it stretch tall, twist, curl, sway, jump?



C

### Riley Fichter's *Rii'joo'vah'nay'shin*



**Guiding Questions:** How do you think the artist used the natural surroundings to inspire their design? What materials could you reuse to create a sculpture?

Artist Riley Fichter likes to create art using repurposed materials that would otherwise be trash (psst - keep an eye out for his other sculpture in the park made of old telephone poles.) He reused steel cables and scrap steel tubes to create this sculpture! The sculpture's snake-like shape was inspired by the wildlife and wind flow of the park's landscape.



**Move & Play:** Run and sing like the wind through the meadow across from Riley's sculpture!

## Sensory Scavenger Hunt - 15 Minutes

Pick a spot that everyone will return to at the end of the scavenger hunt. Split up into small groups. Explore a new area of the park with your group and find (please do not collect) something:

- Rough
- Bright
- That smells nice
- An animal eats
- Sounds interesting
- To climb, jump on/off, or sway
- Inspiring

## Create a Sculpture - 20 Minutes

Individually or in pairs, use air dry clay to build a tiny sculpture inspired by JSP! Optional: Use markers to color right onto the clay and blend by kneading the clay.



**Guiding Prompts:** Build a sculpture that could live in this park!  
How does your sculpture interact with the rain, wind, sun, snow?  
Use fun shapes! Is your sculpture short, tall, wide, thin, swirly?  
If this sculpture could be made of anything, what materials would you use?

Do you want to use any repeating patterns, different textures, or lines?

**Invite the artists to share one thing about their sculpture (title, what inspired it) with the group.**

## Closing Circle - 5 Minutes

Clean up any trash or supplies to keep the park great for future visitors.



**Move & Play:** Get in a circle. Prompt students to move: Be a seed.

Grow like a tree. Make the shape of your favorite sculpture.

**Reflect:** Ask the group about their experience. What did you discover about nature or art? What is one thing you noticed, one thing you felt, and one thing you want to try or learn more about?

## After You Visit

At the beginning, Josephine Sculpture Park was simply an idea in artist Melanie VanHouten's mind. Today, it is a thriving public art park and nonprofit organization that engages hundreds of artists and thousands of visitors each year. All of that takes creativity!

**Explore creativity as a foundational art concept with KET PBS Learning Media's "What is Creativity?" resources.**



**Question:** What if you could create your own public art or nature space? What would it look like, who would visit or live there, what impact would it have on the community? Discuss, sketch, or build out a 3-D art project.