John James Audubon
Artist and Naturalist

A Unit to accompany *Picturing America*
A program of the National Endowment of the Humanities

Monique Poldberg
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*American Flamingo*, 1838
John James Audubon (Robert Havell, Engraver)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
Integrated Content Areas
Visual Art, Science, Language Arts, History

Grade Level
Primary Grades

Big Idea
Living Things Grow and Change

Themes
Artists as Naturalists - Naturalists as Artists
Connecting the Past to the Present
What will students know and be able to do?

1. Students will learn about the contributions of John James Audubon and connect those contributions to the present day.

2. Students will be able to observe and document a bird with both artistic and linguistic representations (include life cycle stages.)

3. Students will be able to research, observe and document information about a bird to contribute to a class field guide with art and writing.

4. Students will learn about other naturalists-artists.

5. Students will be able to compare and contrast the contributions of two or more artists-naturalists.
Vocabulary

ornithology/ornithologist
observe/observation
compare
contrast
habitat
journal/journaling
taxidermy/taxidermist
naturalist
scientist
timeline
ARTS INTEGRATION MODEL

Initial stimulus
A work of art/ a piece of literature

Art production

Vocabulary & Content Instruction

Oral and/or Written Expression

Publication or Presentation

Arts LINC Poldberg/Andrzejczak 2008
Initial Stimulus

American Flamingo, 1838
John James Audubon,
(Robert Havell, Engraver)
National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
in Picturing America Print Set

Literature & Resource Books
Art Production

Observational drawing

- Lessons include teacher modeling of technique and use of materials.

- Students are given models or photographs of birds to observe.

- Students are given multiple opportunities to practice before creating their final product.

- Vocabulary and content are integrated in all lessons.
Students can focus on the adult bird

Or the life cycle stages:
Study the bird in its habitat or in action:
Study details
Oral & Written Expression

In response to their art and observations--
Students have multiple opportunities to

- share orally
- create a variety of written responses, including *labeling, descriptive, narrative* and *expository* compositions.
Student work will be combined to create a *Field Guide of Birds* and published as a class book.

Student work may be displayed publicly.
Compare Audubon to other American Artists-Naturalists

Alexander Wilson  
Martin Johnson Heade

*The Summer Duck* (1747) Mark Catesby
from the book *Mark Catesby’s Natural History of America, The Watercolors from the Royal Library of Windsor Castle*, 1997
Connect to present day conservation efforts
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