

Adopt an Artwork 2025 -2026

Lotus Legacy Painted Rocks and McVey Garden

Lotus Beds on the Saint Jones River, Ethel Pennewill Brown Leach, 1931.

Shivaun Jester, Margaret Kite and Mae Lynn Smith

McVey Elementary School, Christina School District

5th

Art, Writing, and Gardening

OVERVIEW

5th graders will study *Lotus Beds on the Saint Jones River*. They will paint lotus flowers on stones for a Legacy Rock Garden. They will write haikus about the painting in Library classes. Finally, in the spring, they will assist in spring planting in the school garden as they place their painted rocks to create a rock garden. Photos of painted rocks and copies of student writing will be sent to the Biggs Museum for an exhibit. Students will visit the exhibit.

TIME REQUIRED

Art: 3 lessons (45 mins.) sketching and painting

Library: 2 haiku writing lessons (library)

Garden: 1 planting lesson (school garden)

STANDARDS FOR INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

- Standard 1 VA:Re 7.2 - Recognize and describe how art records history and culture.
- Standard 2 VA:Cr2.1 - Experiment and develop artistic ideas and work.
- Standard 3 VA:Cr3.1 Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.

STUDENT "I CAN STATEMENTS"

- I can explain how art can be a record of history and space.
- I can create a painted garden stone inspired by our adopted painting.
- I can write a haiku about *Lotus Beds on the Saint Jones River*.

MATERIALS

- Landscape Rocks
- Liquitex Acrylic High Gloss Varnish (Half Gallon)
- Shuttle Art Acrylic Paint Markers
- Blick Acrylic Gesso
- Plastic Pails
- Pond Plant Potting Media

LESSON ACTIVITIES

Lesson 1. Art - Day 1

1. Look at the painting "Lotus Beds on the Saint Jones River." Have students describe what they see.
2. Discuss why lotus beds are no longer growing in the Saint Jones River (development, pollution, invasive plants, increase in saltwater)
3. Share biographical information and paintings by Ethel Pennewill Brown Leach
4. Exit ticket- On a Post-it note, write one reason why lotus flowers no longer grow on the Saint Jones River in Dover, DE.

Lesson 2. Art - Day 2

1. Give students each a rock which has been coated on the top in gesso (adult-only material) and scrap paper and pencil. Have students sketch a lotus flower or flowers on the rock and use the paper for practice.
2. Students should use black permanent marker to write their name and classroom # on the bottom.

Lesson 3. Art - Day 3

1. Students use acrylic paint markers to paint their lotus flower designs onto their rocks.
2. Each painted rock should be fully coated (top and bottom) 3x with liquitex gloss varnish. Allow each coat to dry fully before adding another coat.

Lesson 4. Library - Day 1

1. Review the syllable structure of a haiku (5-7-5) and have students practice writing one about *Lotus Beds on the Saint Jones River*.

Lesson 5. Library - Day 2

1. Students make revisions and write a final copy of their haikus.

Lesson 6. Garden

1. Students tour the garden guided by students who have helped plant and care for the garden.
2. Students assist in planting flowers in a large pot. They will each place a handful of soil in the pot and learn from other students how the garden is

- managed each spring.
3. Each 5th grader will place their painted rock in the McVey Legacy Rock Garden.

ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING

- Formative: participation, exit tickets, discussion, sketches, on-task painting, rough draft haiku, final haiku
- Summative Products: painted rock garden, haikus and a potted plant in the McVey garden.

VOCABULARY

- **American Lotus Flowers** stand tall above the water and have round leaves, while **water lilies** appear to float on the water and have notched leaves.
- **Historical record** is an artifact that documents events of the past.
- Legacy is the long -lasting impact of a person's life (may also be money or belongings left to someone when a person dies).
- Horizon is where the sky meets the land.
- Foreground is the part closest to us when we look at a painting.
- Middleground is the middle part of a painting or photograph.
- Background is the area or scenery behind the main focus of a painting.
- Haiku is a Japanese poem of 3 lines with a 5 -7-5 syllable structure

RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

- Slide deck of resources and biographical information provided by the Biggs Museum about *Lotus Beds on the Saint Jones River*.
- *My First Indoor Garden* by Philippe Asseray and illustrated by Charlene Tong