

Post-Visit Lesson Plan

Have your students reflect on their visit to Pacific Bonsai Museum and what they learned about the art of bonsai. They will have gained skill in examining art, knowledge of bonsai, and a connection to nature. Thank you for visiting!

Class discussion and/or quickwrite:

Refer back to the questions about bonsai the students had in the pre-visit lesson. Which ones can they answer now? How did they find the answers? What do they find interesting about the art of bonsai?

The Lesson: Responding to Bonsai

- Understand and Apply: Pass out photos of bonsai from the Museum or have the students look at photos they took. Give them time to write about, discuss, and sketch their bonsai. Their responses should apply what they have learned about bonsai.
- Communicate: Have the students share their descriptions and sketches with their neighbors. Make sure they include what they like about the bonsai, what they think the theme is, and what feeling the tree gives them, as well as describe it in terms of their bonsai knowledge.
- Create: Decide what media to use and have the students create artworks to represent the bonsai they studied. Emphasize that the idea is not to create a direct copy, but rather a representation of the style, mood, and/or theme of the bonsai. Encourage them to include their own personal connection or cultural element.
- Present/Respond: Have students present their work in groups, to the class, or in a school gallery.

Further information:

- A bonsai's display includes everything around it: the table or pedestal it is on, whatever is behind it, and anything else that the viewer can see when he or she looks at the work.
 - A formal display may include, besides the tree and pot, the display table, hanging scroll, a secondary bonsai (including its stand), and a companion plant, stone, or figurine.
 - The relationship between all of the parts conveys the theme of the work and a specific environment.
- Find more information at: <http://pacificbonsaimuseum.org/learn/bonsairesources/>.

Other post-visit activity ideas:

- Create a gallery of the art the students made at the Museum or the art they made after.
- Have students research about and make their own versions of companion art to and a display for their bonsai.
- Make a connection to social studies and have students investigate the connection between bonsai and Japanese immigration to the US.
- Compare and contrast bonsai with other visual arts.
- Compare and contrast the art of bonsai with garden design.

Responding to Bonsai

We hope you enjoyed your visit to Pacific Bonsai Museum! Now it's time to show what you have learned about the art of bonsai.

Understand: Examine one of the photos of a bonsai you or your teacher took at the Museum. Describe the tree in terms of line, form, mass, proportion, balance, harmony, texture, and color.

Apply: Sketch your bonsai.

