

NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION FOR ALL RESOURCES

Partnership of IllumiNative and the National Indian Education Association



ILLUMINATIVE



Grade Level

3-5

Subject

**Social Studies
Art**

Lesson Title

Learning from Apache Artist Allan Houser: Observing Life Around You

Activity Description: In this activity, students will learn about a famous artist from the Oklahoma area, Allan Houser, and how his art was based on his observations and inspiration from the nature around them. Students will then take a walk around the neighborhood outside, and draw their own art from the inspiration in their own lives.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- WiFi access (optional)
- [Celebrating Allan Houser Workbook \(Printable PDF\)](#)
- [Activity Guide: Allan Houser: On The Roof" \(Printable PDF\)](#)
- **Optional Activity:**
 - ["Born to Freedom: Allan Houser Centennial" \(Printable PDF\)](#)
- Paper
- Pencils, crayons, colored pencils or markers
- Glue

STEPS

This activity is for children to do with a person from the family or community, or by the children themselves.

Celebrating Apache Artist Allan Houser

1. Read the "[Celebrating Allan Houser Workbook](#)" with your child to learn more about the famous Apache artist, Allan Houser from the Oklahoma area, and the things that inspired his various art forms.
2. For this activity, specifically focus on page 11-12, that discusses Allan Houser's drawings, and that many of his sculptures and drawings were inspired by figures or objects in nature.

Creating Art Inspired by Nature (as discussed in the "[Allan Houser: On The Roof](#)" Activity Guide)

1. Take a nature walk with your child, and ask them to share what inspires them.
2. Encourage your child to collect materials from nature on your walk that they can use in their drawing(s).
3. When you return home, ask your child to create a drawing about something they saw on your walk that inspired them.
 - a. Encourage them to use some of the materials you collected together.

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HELPFUL TIPS

Parents and caregivers: This is a wonderful opportunity for your child or student to learn more about the famous Apache artist from the Oklahoma area, Allan Houser. Your child can take this opportunity to understand that art can come in many forms, and that they can express themselves in the art form that suits them.

Optional Activity: Expressing Yourself through Art

- Share with your child that there are many life changing events in a person's life, such as the one that is discussed in the ["Born to Freedom: Allan Houser Centennial" workbook](#), about the young Apache women who's entry in adolescence is signified in the Sunrise Ceremony.
- Ask them to share some life-changing events in their life, or share a life-changing event that has occurred in your family.
 - Have your child draw a picture of this life-changing event.
 - Ask them about the different things happening in their picture.
- You may also consider asking them to draw some events that they would consider life-changing for other people, such as graduating high school, driving a car, voting, etc.
 - Ask them to share why they think this is a life-changing event?

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Families and Educators: This activity may open up other talking points about other famous Native American artists and art forms. Here are some suggestions below:

- Sacred Arts Research Foundation: [10 Native American Painters, Schools and Styles](#)
- [How Native Americans in the arts are preserving tradition in a changing world.](#)
- Smithsonian Magazine: [How Native American Artist Fritz Scholder Forever Changed the Art World](#)
- [Contemporary Native American Artists](#) (book for purchase on Amazon)

Activity Resource Links:

- Celebrating Allan Houser Workbook (Printable PDF): <https://nie.newsok.com/wp-content/uploads/Celebrating-Allan-Houser-Workbook.pdf>
- Activity Guide: Allan Houser: On The Roof" (Printable PDF): <https://nie.newsok.com/wp-content/uploads/Houser-Lesson-7.pdf>
- Optional Activity: "Born to Freedom: Allan Houser Centennial" (Printable PDF): <https://nie.newsok.com/wp-content/uploads/Houser-Lesson-1.pdf>
- Sacred Arts Research Foundation: 10 Native American Painters, Schools and Styles: <https://www.sacredartsresearch.org/blog/2018/2/23/10-native-american-painters-schools-and-styles-you-should-know>
- How Native Americans in the arts are preserving tradition in a changing world: <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment/arts/museums/la-et-cm-native-american-artists-20181129-htm1story.html>
- Smithsonian Magazine: How Native American Artist Fritz Scholder Forever Changed the Art World: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/fritz-scholder-native-american-artist-art-world-180957655/>
- Contemporary Native American Artists (book for purchase on Amazon): https://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Native-American-Artists-Suzanne/dp/1423605594/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=native+american+artists&qid=1590426655&sr=8-1