

INSERTING SCIENCE INTO ART, CRAFT, AND FOLKLORE ...THE “FUN-NESS” OF FACTS

Storyteller, Ane Carla Rovetta, delights audiences all over the United States. In addition to her school assemblies, lectures, keynote addresses, and inspiration talks, she also provides these “hands-on” activities for your classroom, staff trainings, or seminar programs.

GUIDED DRAWING LESSONS

This begins with a lively legend. After the talk, participants are guided in the recreation of the main character(s) using colorful sets of chalk. While we draw the animal of your choice, Ane Carla will dispense facts and anecdotes about the biology, philosophy, and natural history of the species.

ALL GRADES. This activity can be compressed into 45 minutes or expanded to fill 1 or 1.5 hours.

EARTH TO ART - MAKING PAINT FROM SOIL

This activity begins with a legend that explains the colors in rock. We then will grind soil to make paint. An alternative choice is to create pastel chalk using a recipe that is said to date from Leonardo da Vinci’s time.

ALL GRADES. Requires 1 hour to 1.5 hours.

INCREDIBLE INKS - USING HISTORIC RECIPES

Ane Carla has been making ink for 20 years. She will bring examples of inks that are historically important but take months to make. She has John Muir’s redwood ink, Leonardo da Vinci’s oak gall ink, pioneer walnut ink, and ink made from green tea. Students will make Egyptian soot ink, and will write with their ink using feather quills.

FOURTH GRADE AND UP (the inks are indelible). Requires 1 hour to 1.5 hours.

WALNUT DICE - GAME **Nut Allergy Alert**

Historically, games of chance and skill were played all over California. Even now, the walnut dice game generates excitement and suspense at local POW-WOWS and other tribal gatherings. Ane Carla will tell a story about where the game could have come from. Each participant will get to make a set of six dice using California native black walnuts, clay, abalone shells, and pioneer sandpaper.

THIRD GRADE AND UP. Requires 1 hour to 1.5 hours.

CATTAILS ARE COOL - STRING MAKING

This abundant local plant was used in Nevada for string, rope, and basketry. It can even be made into hats! Ane Carla has several wetland stories that include cattails and the animals that inhabit their dense stands.

SECOND GRADE AND UP. Requires 45 minutes.

CORNHUSK HAPPENINGS

Corn is a plant that is rich with folklore and culture. Whole villages around the world depend upon it. A native to the Americas, its biology is as fascinating as what can be fashioned from its husks. We will do as much botany as a teacher requests, leaving time to fashion the supple cornhusks into people or flying hacky sacks. Ane Carla dyes the corn bright colors that encourage student creativity.

ALL GRADES. This activity can be compressed into 45 minutes or expanded to fill 1 or 1.5 hours.

TULE TANGLES - EARLY CALIFORNIA WEAVING

Tule Grass (*Scirpus* sp.) grows in California’s wetlands and is used all over the world to make cordage, boats, houses, clothing, hats and toys. In this session we will create a toy out of small pieces of tule grass.

ALL GRADES. Requires 45 minutes.