

NEF AUTUMN GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Project Title: *Exploring Landforms through Art*

Amount of funding requested from NEF: \$685

Applicant name(s) and association with school(s):

Sannie Rejndrup, Newman PTC Creative Arts Committee

School based partner (if applicant is not a Needham Public School employee)

Laurie Sullivan, Assistant Principal

Linda Nickens, Newman Art Teacher

Newman Science Center Staff

School(s)/groups targeted for grant: *All fourth grade students at Newman*

Approx. # of students impacted: 115 students (five classes)

Project Leader(s):

Sannie Rejndrup & Linda Nickens

Grant Manager/Contact person: Sannie Rejndrup

Mailing Address: 80 Sylvan Road, Needham, MA

E-Mail Address: Rejndrup@rcn.com

Daytime Phone: 781-453-8975

Evening Phone: Same

Secretary/Bookkeeper with access to Town's financial system (usually one of the school secretaries or Department secretaries.) Carol Patsio, Newman School Secretary

Abstract of Grant:

Art Quest is a unique educational program designed to deepen students' understanding and develop critical thinking skills through observing works of art. This year, the Newman PTC Creative Arts Committee would like to launch a new cross-disciplinary program called "Landforms". This program will build upon the Newman 4th grade science curriculum by having students "detect" and identify landform details embedded in paintings, and drawings. As students study and compare differing works of art, they will be asked to identify various landforms (valleys, plateaus, lakes, etc) and consider how natural and man-made structures in these paintings may have influenced the environment and development of cultures. The magnification and projection of paintings on a large screen, along with Art Quests emphasis on comparing and contrasting works of art, will offer students the opportunity to sharpen their observational and analytical skills. At the same time, students will build a greater awareness and appreciation of a range of artists and their varying techniques. As a follow up to the Art Quest presentations, 4th graders will construct their own artistic representations of various landforms during art class.

.Benefits

Not all students learn through traditional means. Increasingly educators are recognizing the importance of providing students with learning opportunities that match their differing "intelligences". For instance, many children are "visual learners", or grasp concepts most effectively through hands-on "kinesthetic" activities. The Art Quest *Landforms* program will benefit Newman 4th grade students of all learning styles and abilities by offering them the opportunity to actively engage in scientific study through a multidisciplinary lens. Art Quest exercises which ask students to examine, compare and contrast works of art will also build students' critical thinking skills while expanding their awareness and appreciation for art.

Jill Sanford of Art Quest has a track record of success with Newman students. Last year Ms. Sanford presented a four-part program designed to examine history through art. The fifth grade students and teachers that participated in this program found it to be highly effective in engaging students and building their understanding of history and of art. Jill's teaching approach features a highly interactive style of engaging students through using questioning techniques that probe deeper thinking, presenting challenges and building upon students' existing knowledge base.

Approximately 115 students (all 4th grade Newman students) will benefit from this program.

Details of Proposed Project

This project will have three main objectives.

- 1) Deepen 4th graders understanding of landforms
- 2) Build students' critical thinking skills
- 3) Increase students' knowledge and appreciation for a range of artists and their varying techniques.

Art Quest's new program "landforms" was co-developed by Caren Doben, M.Ed. from Lesley College and Jill Sanford who holds a B.A. in Art History from the University of Massachusetts.. The program will be coordinated collaboratively by Linda Nickens, the art teacher in conjunction with 4th grade classroom teachers and Newman Science Center staff.

During each presentation, Ms. Sanford will project two slides simultaneously onto the screen. Students will be asked to compare the works of art and participate in discussions. Through examining and analyzing works of art, students will learn more about various landforms, and at the same time will begin to identify artists' styles, and techniques. Ms. Sanford's facilitation and questioning techniques will help students to see connections, exercise their critical thinking skills and build understanding of geological phenomena.

Ms. Sanford will offer her "landforms" session to each 4th grade classroom individually in order to promote lively discussion and allow the students ample opportunity for a close view of the slides. Ms. Sanford believes strongly that having a small group size is essential to gaining full participation and gaining the "lasting power" of images and concepts for children.

Proposed Schedule

Activity/Task	Who	When
4 th grade classrooms engage in the Landforms curriculum unit	4 th grade students & their teachers	November 2005
Teaching staff meet to discuss plans for preparing students for ArtQuest, and for follow-up activities in the classroom.	Linda Nickens, Science Center staff and 4 th grade teachers	December 2005
Art Quest conducts presentations for each 4 th grade classroom	Art Quest	January 10 th and 12 th 2005
4 th grade students participate in follow up activities in art, science and general classroom settings.	4 th grade students, Linda Nickens, art teacher, Science Center staff and 4 th grade teachers	Late January-February 2006

Specific Methods of Evaluation

The Art Quest "Landforms" project will have been successful if...

1. 4th grade students develop a deeper understanding of landforms
2. 4th grade students' exercise their critical thinking skills
3. 4th grade students' knowledge and appreciation for works of art, artists and artistic techniques, has been expanded.

Methods:

Teacher email surveys & verbal reports

Testimonials from children (immediately following events)

Written and/or verbal reports from art and science teachers

Budget

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Total Project Budget: \$ 685 Total NEF Funds Requested: \$ 685

<u>Expense Category</u>	<u>Detailed description of Expense</u> (use separate sheet if necessary)	<u>Amount(s) Requested from NEF</u>	<u>Amount(s) Requested from Other Sources</u>	<u>Total Project Funding</u>
<u>Stipends</u>	Stipend recipient _____ # of hours _____ @ \$ _____ per hr.			
<u>Materials</u>	See following page			
<u>Equipment</u>	See following page			
<u>Fees</u>	Fee for: Jill Sanford, Art Quest Facilitator \$125X5 sessions	\$625		
<u>Other (Specify)</u>	Expenses incurred by Jill Sanford in traveling to Newman Elementary	\$60		
<u>Total</u>		\$685		

Signature(s) of applicant(s):

Date: _____

Comments and Signature of Principal(s) and/or Superintendent:

Comments and Signature of School partner (if applicant is not a Needham Public School employee)_

Linda Nickens Newman Art Teacher

Alissa Hennekens, 4th grade teacher

**Autumn Grant Application Form
Commitment Letter**

Project Title: *Exploring Landforms through Art*

As the party(ies) responsible for the execution and administration of the proposed project, the undersigned pledge to:

- Submit a detailed accounting of all Needham Education Foundation, Inc. funds expended as part of this grant, to be submitted to Anne Gulati, Director of Finance.
- Submit a final project report within thirty (30) days of completing this grant, but no later than June 1, 2006.
- Secure appropriate media opportunities within the school, with other schools in Needham, the business community, the larger Needham community and elsewhere.
- Collect photographs, work samples, and/or other visuals for publicity purposes to be submitted to your NEF Grant Contact or one of the Autumn Grant Committee Co-chairs.

I/We recognize that providing the accounting, reporting and publicity items listed above are a condition of funding and therefore are my/our obligation as a grant recipient.

Applicant(s) signature(s):

Date: _____

Principal(s) and/or Superintendent signature(s):

Date: _____