

VISUAL ARTS

4TH/5TH GRADE ACTIVITIES

Introduction: Spending time in nature can help us feel calm, creative and inspired. Land Art is a type of art that uses materials found in nature. This artwork is usually left outside in its natural setting for others to enjoy. You can use pattern and radial balance to create your own Land Art. If you want to stay inside, use objects found in your home to create your design.

MATERIALS

Outside: leaves, sticks, rocks, flowers, pinecones, or shells

Inside: buttons, beads, uncooked pasta/lentils/beans, cutlery, paper clips, rubber bands, or thumbtacks



MENTOR ARTIST: Jill Bliss

Jill Bliss is a land artist who lives and works in the Salish Sea islands. She uses the diversity of plants and mushrooms in her local environment to create artistic arrangements in nature. She calls her artwork, "Nature Medleys." These medleys often include bright colors, asymmetrical balance and a variety of textures.

"These medleys are always created with the utmost respect and thankfulness for the beings who inhabit them and the area."

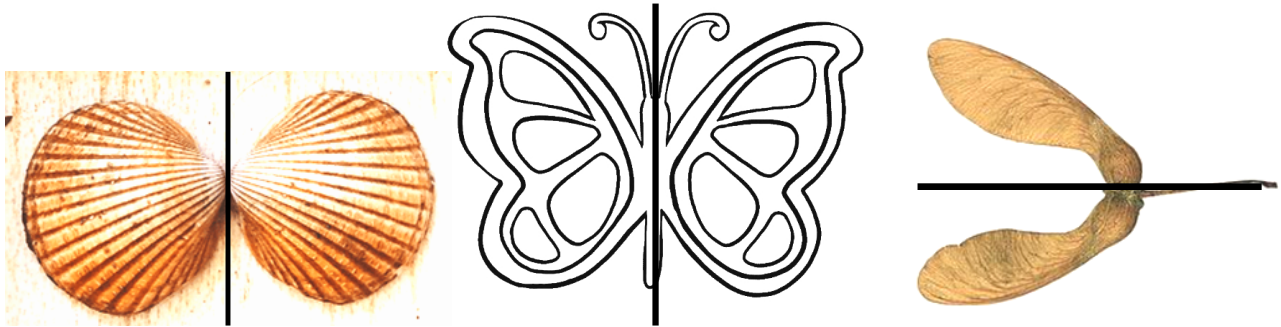
~JILL BLISS

VOCABULARY

Balance: Equal weight all the way around

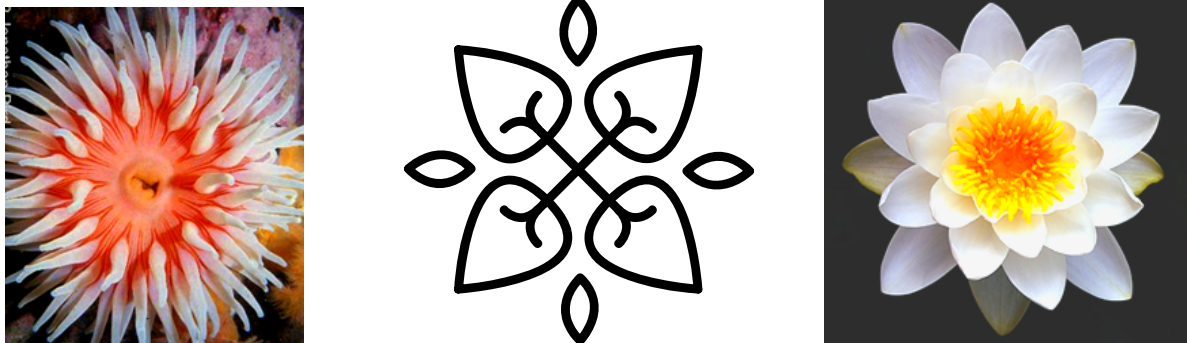
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Symmetrical Balance: Same on both sides



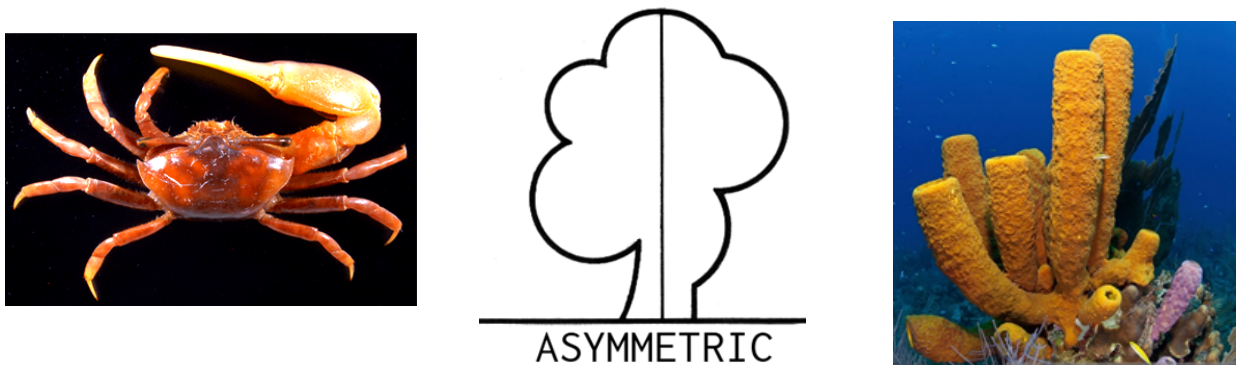
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Radial Balance: Elements repeat around a center point



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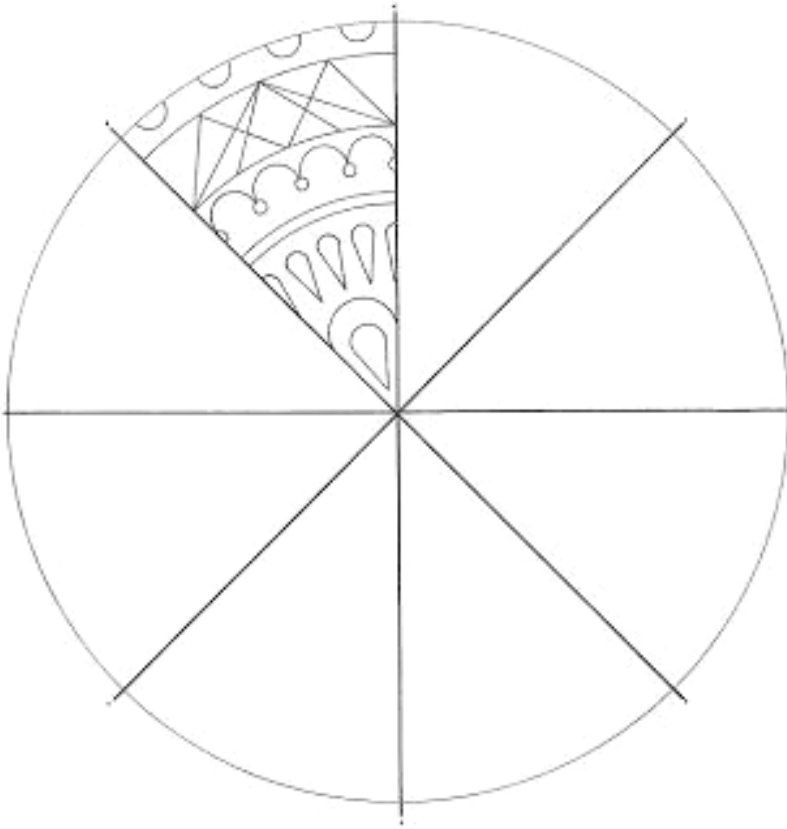
Asymmetrical Balance: The parts of the image are not exactly the same or symmetrical, but they are arranged in a way that is still balanced.



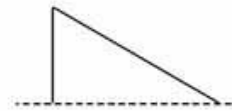
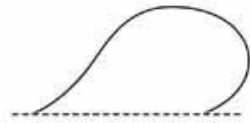
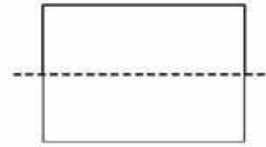
PRACTICE

Complete the drawings below to create the correct type of balance.

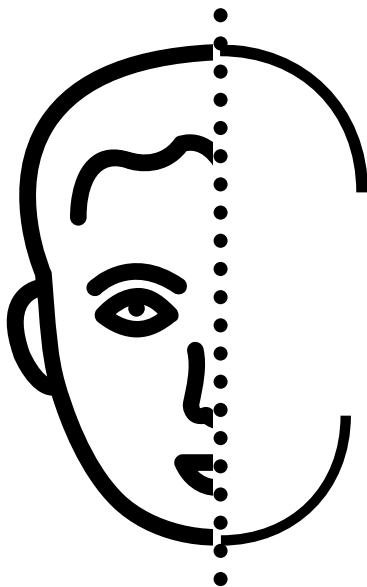
RADIAL



SYMMETRICAL



ASYMMETRICAL



STEP 1: FIND A SPACE

Find a space in nature. It could be your yard, or a local garden or park. Take in the landscape and nature around you. If you want to stay inside, find a space in your home and observe the room around you.

Take in the space you have chosen. What do you notice? What do you see? Hear? Smell? What do you enjoy?



STEP 2: GATHER OBJECTS

What do you see? What can you gather? Start collecting materials that you would like to use.

Make sure you have at least three or four of each object you select. This will help you create a design that has radial balance.

Outside

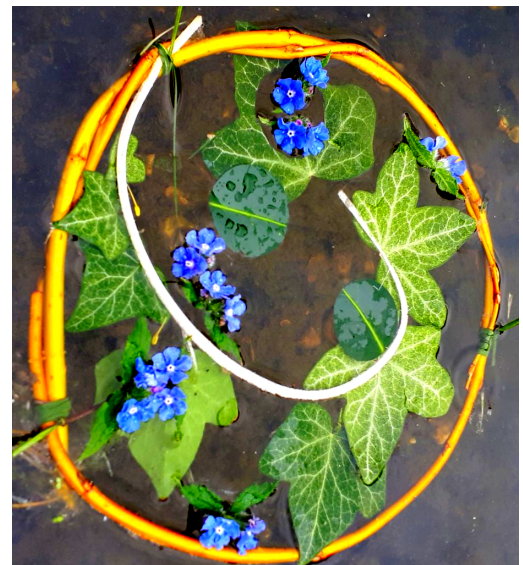


Inside



STEP 3: ASYMMETRICAL DESIGN

Start arranging your items. Play with the "medley" of objects until you find a composition that you like. Make sure your arrangement is **ASYMMETRICAL**. Try finding different objects with similar shapes, sizes or colors, and placing them opposite each other so that they balance. Using objects with both similarities and differences can help you create asymmetrical balance.



STEP 4: FINISHED!

Once you finish your design, take a moment to admire your artwork and enjoy the peaceful space you have helped create.

Snap a photo, show a friend/family member, or draw a picture of your design. Then leave the artwork as a surprise for future visitors to this spot.



If you wish to draw your design, use the space below.

