



ThinkLink Lesson: Our Celebrations and Our Environment

Based on 5 ArtLink Pieces from the 2019-20 International Art Portfolio

For students ages 9-13 years old



Latvia - *The Song for the Sea*



Japan - *Yakatabune*



India - *Palkhi Procession*



Sri Lanka - *My Culture & Heritage*



China - *Dragon Dance*

Art and descriptions can be found at the end of this lesson.

Introduction

Young artists from China, India, Japan, Latvia, and Sri Lanka have created art pieces that show the cultural celebrations they enjoy and how these celebrations are impacted by their environment. They also shared ideas on things they are doing to protect the environment.

Your Assignment

Review the art

Look at the first piece from China and guess what is going on and who the people are in the scene. Then read the description written by the artist named Hong Yin to check out your guess. Review each of remaining pieces in the same way.

Locate each of the five countries on a world map



1. Latvia
2. India
3. Sri Lanka
4. China
5. Japan

Answer these questions

1. Find the piece featuring a large red dragon being paraded through the streets.
 - a. How many people are holding up the dragon?
 - b. What are they making the dragon do?
2. Find the two pieces which feature water in some way.
 - a. What countries are the pieces from?
 - b. Which piece focuses on the need to keep the sea clean?
 - c. What is the name of this sea?

3. Find the piece with a man and woman standing side-by-side offering prayers and food offerings in an outdoor festival?
 - a. What is one type of fruit being offered?
 - b. What form of transportation is included?
 - c. Which two types of animals can you spot?

4. Find the piece that includes a procession of people carrying orange flags
 - a. How many of the people are balancing plants on their heads?
 - b. What is this plant called?
 - c. Why is it important?

5. Match the festival with the country it come from.

Sea Day	India
Avurudu/Vesak	Japan
Yakatabune	China
Palkhi	Latvia
Spring Festival	Sri Lanka

6. Each of the artists shared ways they were protecting the environment.

Match each artist to what they are doing.

Harshil (Sri Lanka)	Praying/not using plastic bags or synthetic materials
Kaya (Japan)	Spreading message of keeping the environment clean
Liene (Latvia)	Not cutting down trees/not polluting waterways
Prutha (India)	Preserve the environment by sorting trash

7. Think of the celebrations you enjoy that take place outdoors.

Describe with words or draw a sketch of one of these celebrations.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for a student to draw a sketch or write a description of an outdoor celebration.

Questions to think about

- a. Why do you think so many of the celebrations in our country and around the world take place outdoors?

- b. In what ways would a dirty or polluted environment affect our enjoyment of these celebrations?



Title: Dragon Dance

Artist: Hong Yin

School: Yuting Primary School of

Xindu Sichua Province

Medium: Colour

Age: 10

Country: China

Description of Piece:

There are some people on the street. They are the dancing dragon at the Spring Festival. They are very happy. The value I am depicting is the importance of outdoor spaces for gathering together and being in nature.

More about the Artist:

I live with my family. In my spare time, I like reading, running and learning English. I like studying the history of China. I don't know what I want to be when I grow up.



Title: Palkhi Procession

Artist: Prutha

School: Educon International School

Medium: Crayons, markers

Age: 9

Country: India

Description of Piece:

It is a procession of God Vitthal. It takes place in Pandharpur [holy town in Maharashtra, India]. People are chanting the name of Lord Vitthal. The values I am illustrating are team building, self control and patience. The scene is affected by the natural environment because they promote the importance of plants by carrying Tulsi, which is a medicinal plant. I can help preserve the environment by spreading the message of keeping the environment clean.

More about the Artist:

I stay with my parents and baby sister. I like to draw and paint in my free time. I dislike loud noise. I want to be an artist when I grow up.

**Artist photo
not available**



Title: The Song for the Sea

Artist: Liene

School: Baldone Art School

Medium: Oil Pastels, pencil

Age: 12

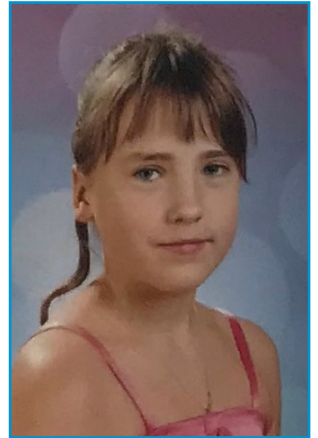
Country: Latvia

Description of Piece:

In my picture the folk singers are in national costumes, the first Sunday in September is Sea Day. We sing, we dance, we clean the sea from rubbish and pray for clean water in the world. The value I am depicting is the importance of clean water everywhere. We celebrate the Sea Day, we pray for a clean Baltic Sea. We can preserve the environment by not using plastic bags, synthetic materials and not to pollute nature.

More about the Artist:

We are a friendly family. I like sports, painting and to read books. I like happiness, I don't like bad people. I dislike drunkenness and war starters. I do not know what I want to be when I grow up.



Title: My Culture and Heritage

Artist: Harshil

School: Children's Art Circle

Medium: Oil Pastels

Age: 12

Country: Sri Lanka

Description of Piece:

My art piece depicts the natural environment in Sri Lanka and historical figures. My art also depicts two of the most significant festivals in Sri Lanka which are Avurudu [the New Year] and Vesak [Buddha's Birthday]. These festivals also symbolize unity. The values I am depicting are the importance of unity, and protecting our heritage for future generations. Avurudu and Vesak are festivals that are held outdoors while preserving the environment. I can help preserve the environment by not cutting down trees or polluting the water ways.

More about the Artist:

I live in a nuclear family which consists of my mother, my father, younger sister and myself. I like to create doodle art. I like swimming and I like music. I dislike string hoppers [a rice noodle dish]. I want to be a Formula 1 racer when I grow up.





Title: Yakatabune

Artist: Kaya

School: Kosei Girls Junior High School

Medium: Acrylic painting

Age: 14

Country: Japan

Description of Piece:

People are watching fireworks at Sumida River at night. The values I am illustrating are tradition and customs. My scene is affected by the natural environment because when rivers and towns get dirty, the beautiful scenery of fireworks is spoiled. I can help preserve the environment by sorting trash.

More about the Artist:

I have a mother and a father. I like them very much. I like to read magazines in my free time. My favorite thing is sushi and the one thing I don't like is cockroaches. When I grow up I want to be a respected person.

