



## Chapter 1

# EXPLORING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

### Words you will learn:

- Appreciation
- Art forms
- Artworks
- Natural Environment
- Nature
- Observation
- Surroundings

### You will need:

- Note book, sketch pad, pencil,
- paint, brushes, glue and section of the Natural environment

After reading this chapter and practicing its activities, you will be able to:

1. Explore what makes your natural environment
2. Discuss the influence of the natural environment to the making of art in the community.
3. Use materials from the environment responsibly.
4. Preserve the natural environment as a cultural heritage and as source of inspiration.

## Introduction

In this chapter, you are going to explore the world around you. You will also appreciate the usefulness of the natural environment to the people. Do you know why you are surrounded by different things of nature? What is the importance of plants, birds or animals to you? Why do you think people living in different geographical areas create artworks and express themselves differently?

The way you make aesthetic/artistic choices is reflected in artworks which are influenced by family, culture, and community. Imagine you were in a place with no plants, water, birds or animals. You might overhear some say this place is not good to live in. That might even suggest that you have no materials to use in the making of things you need in daily life.

## Observing and appreciating nature

In this section you will learn about the language used by artists to communicate. Artists use visual images-things we can see and sometimes touch to communicate ideas. You will learn to do this after acquiring the skill of **observing**.

You will pick interest in observing things of different appearances. Do activity 1.1 to start on the journey of your exploration and observing your environment.

### Activity 1.1 Getting familiar with our natural environment

1. In groups, take a journey to the nearby environment outside your classroom.
2. Look at your immediate natural surroundings and identify objects found there.
3. In your notebook/sketch pad list objects that have interested you, and give reasons to why?
4. Discuss with friends the usefulness of the objects identified in natural environment to the community.

## Art as a language

What do you see when you look around? The surrounding you live in is rich with things that have beautiful shapes and colors. All this is part of your natural surroundings.

Your natural environment can serve as a source of raw materials. It can also influence your creative minds to make art works. In this section, you will learn

how to create different art works depicting the natural environment, or describing objects from the natural environment.

Our eyes help us a lot in observing the different objects from nature and describing them. By doing so, you will be showing an appreciation of your natural environment and how you can use it to sustain your life.

Hint: Appreciating art takes more than just looking at an object. It takes looking-and knowing **how** to look-to find meaning. This is called **observation**.

Studying art will give you the power to challenge your thinking and see things with an artistic eye. Your interest to know why things look like the way they are is what is called artistic curiosity. On your journey through the world of art, you will learn how to “see” art. You will also learn how to perceive artistically with practice.

### **Activity 1.2 Drawing from what I see**

1. In your art book/sketch pad make a representation of the details of an object you have observed from your surroundings.
2. Share your report with your friend and discuss how the lines formulated the shape of the objects.

### **Examining and responding to the natural environment**

You have enjoyed a tour around your surrounding environment. You must have seen objects of different appearance in shapes, sizes and colour. Can you describe objects you have seen?

To describe an object requires an interpretation as a response. You need to know what to use to describe or interpret an object.

After going through Section one, you realised that the natural environment provides us with the materials we need to make life enjoyable.

Various art works can be made from natural materials to serve different purposes in our societies. Since we cannot do without the environment it is our personal responsibility to responsibly use, maintain and improve on it.

**What is the contribution of the natural environment to the visual arts?**

The natural environment offers a lot of resources for artistic ideas. Materials from the natural environment can be either used directly from their source or worked upon to change their colours and strength in order to serve the purpose. For example look at the images in figure 1.1 and in your groups work out the activity that follows.

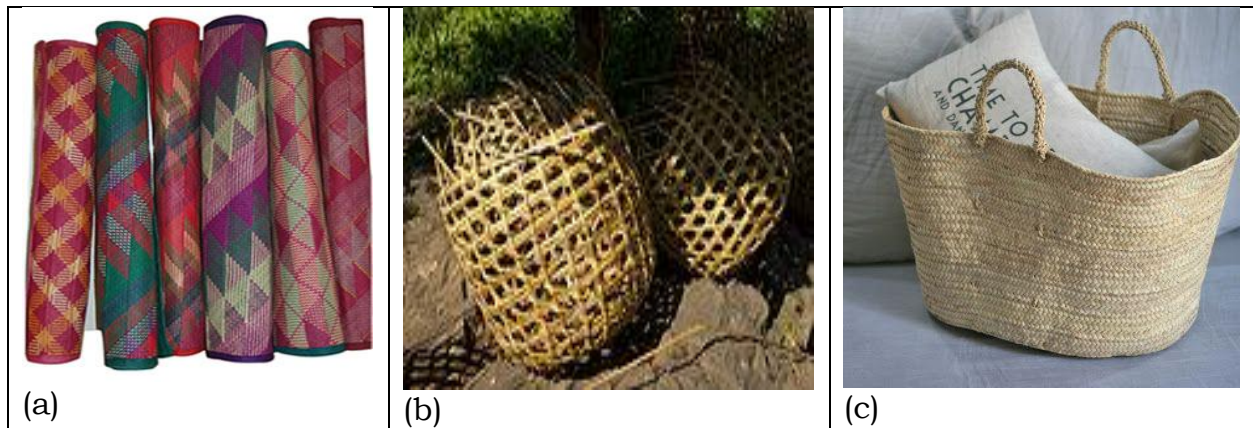


Figure 1.1 Crafts made from materials of the natural environment

### Activity 1.3 Use of materials from the environment

1. List down the different materials that were used to create the artworks in the pictures shown the figure 1.1.
2. Describe how such materials are prepared from the natural environment and how they can be kept safe before they are used in the artworks.
3. Which of these materials can be got from your local area?
4. Discuss the purpose of the artworks in figure 1.1 in the society.

### The use of nature in art making

In this section you will observe that nature is such a major source in art making. Observe the pictures in figure 1.2 and 1.3 and answer activity 1.4





Fig 1.2 Bwola dance of Acoli



Fig 1.3 Lalakaraka dance of Acoli

### Activity 1.4 Responding to the arts in the natural environment

1. What is taking place in the picture?
2. Identify the materials from the natural environment that were used during the presentations in the pictures above. List them on a paper.
3. Discuss the factors that are likely to have been considered to select these particular materials?
4. What are the means that can be used to make sure that such materials are always available?

### Why study Art?

Can you imagine what it would be like to play a new game without learning the rules, or to read a story in a language that is not familiar to you?

**Learning art** will help you develop understanding of self and the world around you. Art engages the body, mind and the spirit to communicate ideas and feelings that often cannot be expressed by any other means. You will learn and develop **a language** of artistic expression of ideas, feelings, emotions and moods through a variety of art experiences (creative growth). You will have opportunities to make meaningful **literacy** choices and to produce new forms of texts by combining literacy resources. Art will open **career opportunities** for you as an artist.

Art is made by people to communicate ideas, express feelings and to make well-designed objects to use in our daily life.

Art has disciplines such as **painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, Jewelry** and many more.

List any other discipline of art that is not mentioned.

Study Figure 1.2 and do Activity 1.4.

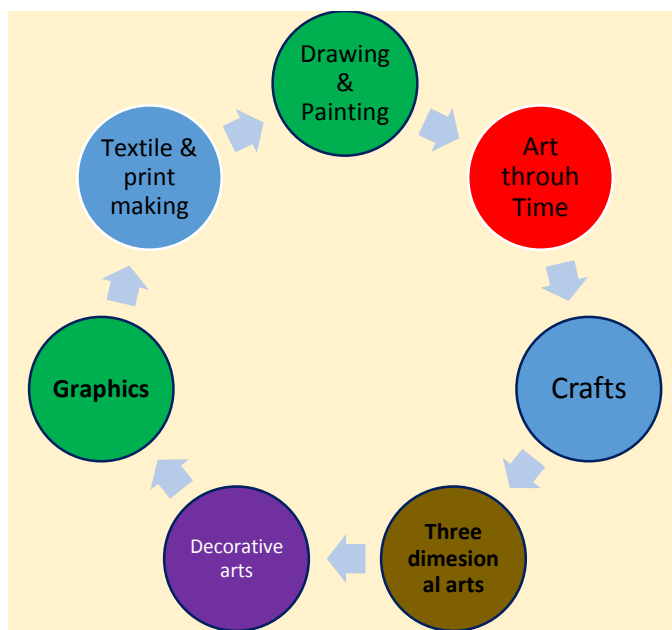


Figure 1.4 Branches of art

### Activity 1.5 Branches of Art

1. Copy figure 1.2 in your note book
2. Draw a circle in the centre and in it write the word visual art
3. Draw lines from the centre circle to the braches of art
4. In pairs talk about each of the branches and record your answers in your note book

### Integration activity

Based on the theme “Nature is Life” design a collage using the information and materials from the natural environment. As you make your artwork, consider space as a limiting factor for displaying your work.

### Chapter summary

In this chapter you have learned to:

1. Observe and appreciate the Natural environment.
2. Recognise the importance of art, identify artworks from the society that are made from materials of the natural environment
3. Use materials from the environment responsibly.
4. Preserve the natural environment as a cultural heritage and as source of inspiration

**Tips:**

- Be careful when you tour the natural environment. Some objects have natural protection of thorns, and or **are poisonous and you should not touch them.**
- Be cautious of the environment. Use it sparingly to avoid destruction of plants