

ArtStream

Written Instructional Guide



Building Worlds with Paper

For 6th-8th Grade Students

With Teaching Artist Victoria Wills

Lesson 4:

Become a Nature Guide

Introduction

Welcome!

In the past lessons, you've created a 3D diorama to represent your world complete with landscape, flora, and fauna.

You've done research to learn what plants and animals to feature and accurately represent the biome your world exists in.

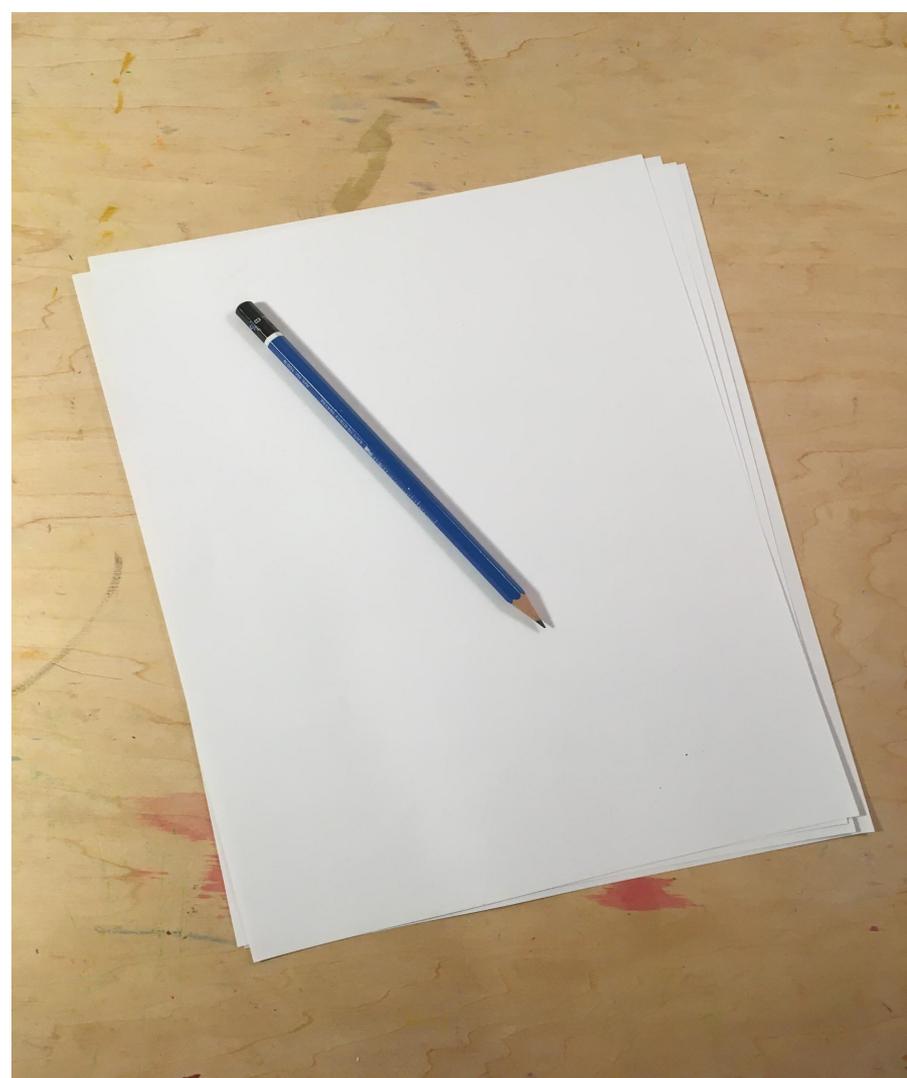
In this lesson, you'll learn skills to help you to become a nature guide and give a tour of your world. You'll share about the landscape and how the life forms have adapted to their environment.



Materials

For this lesson you will need:

- 4 pieces of paper - printer or sketch paper
- Graphite pencil or pen



Let's get started with a moment of gentle movement.

- Be seated in a comfortable place with your arms at your sides, back lengthened, facing forward.
- Slowly lift your right arm, moving it behind your head and reaching behind you, as if you were searching inside an invisible backpack that you're wearing.
- Slowly lift your left arm, to gently press on your right elbow, helping it reach farther into the backpack.



Gentle movement (*continued*)

- Try searching in the back pack for a wish you'd make for the world.
- Once you locate the wish, release the left arm from pressing on your elbow and place it in your lap.
- Take the wish from the backpack as you continue holding it in your right hand, and cast the wish far away in the direction you think it's needed most.



Gentle movement (*continued*)

- Slowly lift your left arm, moving it behind your head and reaching behind you, again, searching inside an invisible backpack that you're wearing.
- Slowly lift your left arm and let your left hand gently press on your right elbow, helping it reach farther into the backpack.
- Try searching in the back pack for a wish you'd make for yourself, a hope or a dream.



Gentle movement (*continued*)

- Once you locate the wish, release the left hand from pressing on your elbow and place it in your lap.
- Take the wish from the backpack as you continue holding it in your hand, and sprinkle it in a circle over your head letting it fall and covering you in good intentions.

You can practice this gentle movement with a friend or family member to bring you a moment of quiet thoughtfulness during the day



Step 1: Create your field guide character

Which animal will you be?

- Decide on an animal from your world to serve as the field guide who will speak about your world. You will perform as this creature, so pick your favorite!
- Using the information you've gathered about the way life has adapted to survive, consider how you will describe your world from your animal's point of view?
- Use one of your pieces of paper to take notes.



Step 2: Describe your world

Review your research.

- Review the lists or mind maps you created for Lessons 1-3 to gather information about the landscape, climate, the flora and the fauna.
- Using this information, select a name for your world that best describes it.



Step 3: Write the field guide script

Begin with introducing your animal.

Imagine your animal is taking us on a tour of your world and answering the following questions as you write the answers from your animal's perspective:

- What do you do to find and consume food?
- What animals or plants provide you with food?
- Where do you find shelter?
- How do you find and drink water?



Step 3: Write the field guide script (*continued*)

Next, describe the location.

As your animal, lead us around your world. Use these questions to describe the features of the land your animal lives in:

- What are the main features of your world's landscape?
- What do you use for shelter?
- Where do you hunt or take cover?
- What is the climate like on a typical day?



Step 3: Write the field guide script

Then, tell us about the other fauna.

Staying in your animal character, write about the other animals in your world as you relate to them using these questions:

- What animals are your predators, if any?
- What animals are your prey, if any?
- How have the other animals adapted to survive in this environment?



Step 3: Write the field guide script

Finally, tell us about the flora.

Staying in your animal character, describe the plants in your world as you relate to them by answering these questions:

- What kind of plants grow here?
- What plants you depend on to survive? Do you eat them, climb them, or hide in them?
- How have these plants adapted to life in this environment?



Step 4: Embodying your animal character

Use these prompts to discover how to **perform** as your animal character:

- How does your animal character hold its body? Try to place your body as your animal might.
- How does it show emotion in its face? Demonstrate that expression.
- How does its voice sound? Try speaking in your animal voice.

Have fun, be silly, and get creative!



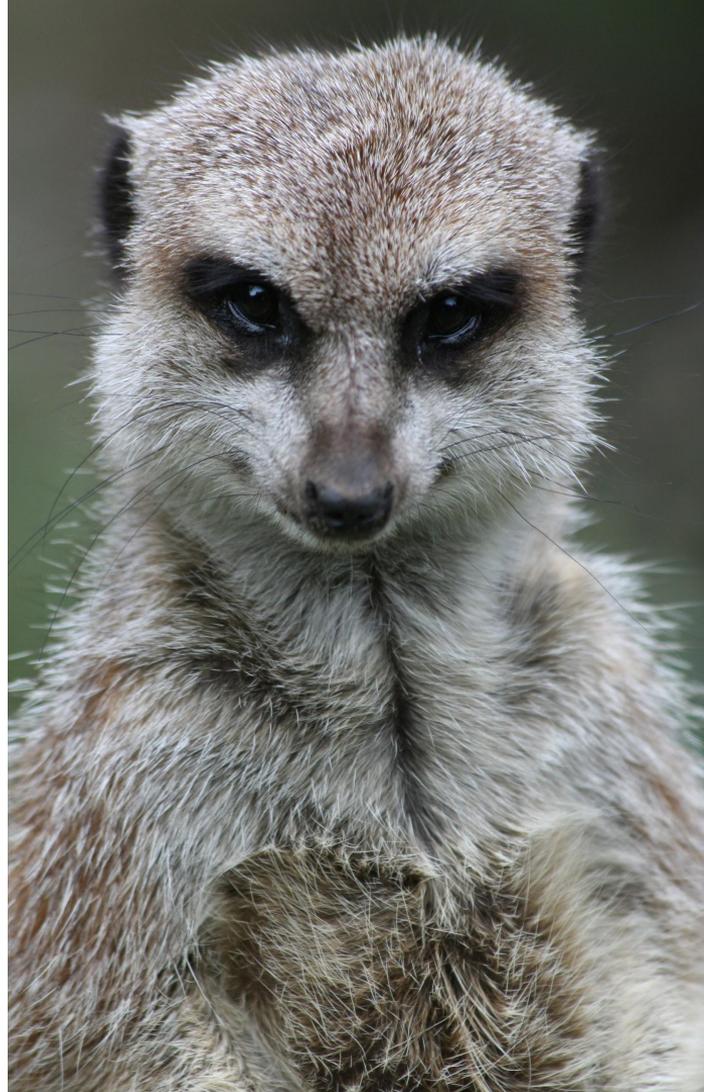
Step 5: Give a tour of your world

Perform as the animal tour guide and describe your world in character as you lead us around your diorama. You can begin with the words-

- “We find ourselves today in the land of...
[name of your world] ...”

Have fun describing your world!

Give a tour of your world to an adult mentor, sibling, friend, or neighbor. You could even record a video to share!



Reflective Moment

Take a moment to sit with hands on your lap and your back lengthened. Think back on the steps you followed to create your animal tour guide character.

Think of one step that was challenging to your or new that you completed.

Take yourself back through the process right up to the present moment and notice a sense of accomplishment.

Carry that feeling with you throughout your day.



Thank you!

We're so glad you've joined in to become a Nature Guide and complete your paper 3D world!

- Please be sure to share this project with an adult mentor or friend.
- Let them know about the different art making techniques you learned to complete this project.
- Think about other 3D paper projects you could imagine creating with paper. How could you add performance, like you did today?
- Use the art making skills you learned in these lessons and keep creating!