

Teachers Guide for DIG: Amazing Earth Paintings

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Prior Knowledge:

- Before reading the articles, ask the students if they have heard about the Plains of Nazca. Ask the students if they have any knowledge about other earth paintings.
- Ask the students to brainstorm why ancient people may have made earth paintings.
- Share the word *geoglyphs* and ask students to infer its meaning.

Chile's Amazing Lines(pages 8-9)

Possible Vocabulary Words: remote, geometric, motifs, and durable

- Where are some of the most famous geoglyphs found?(Chile, California, Peru)
- Why are those found in the Atacama Desert the least known?(hard to reach the area, few can be seen from the air)
- What are the two basic methods of making geoglyphs?(moving stones to expose the lighter-colored soil beneath and piling up of dark stones to make patterns).
- Draw/color a postcard and write a note to someone pretending to have visited the Atacama geoglyphs. Include 3 facts learned from the reading.

Nasca Lines (pages 10- 12)

Possible Vocabulary Words: pampas, perspective, flourished, subsist, and ritual

- List some of the drawings found.(bird, spider, spirals, geometric figures, etc.)
- How were the drawing made?(brushing away the red gravel to reveal a contrasting layer of white earth beneath)
- * Why don't scientists think the drawings were an astronomical calendar?(lines don't align with celestial bodies). If you can only see the drawings from the air, why and how do you think they were made? What theory do archaeologists have today for the lines?(pathways to different villages and sacred centers of the Nasca people)
- Three facts about the Nasca culture which created these works of art.(flourished 350BC-600 AD, pyramid near Cahuachi suggests it was the main settlement, fishing and growing crops main way to earn a living, pottery remains found, etc.)
- * Draw one of the Nasca Lines. Write five facts learned from the reading and place them on your drawing.

Meet the Blythes (pages 14- 17)

- How were the Blythe Giants found?(in 1931 while George Palmer was flying from Las Vegas to Blythe, CA).
- Why do some wish to keep the discovery of ancient geoglyphs a secret?(fear that vandals and visitors can ruin the ancient works of art) What has happened to the arm of the California Giant?(offroad vehicle rode over it) What has recently been done to protect the giant?(fence constructed around it)
- * Write a how-to paragraph explaining to someone the steps needed to create the Blythe Giants.
- * Pretend you are the California giant, also known as Mastambo. Write a day in your life. What do you hear, see, and feel?

British Chalk Figures pages 18-21

Possible Vocabulary Words: camouflage, scoured, incorporate, adamant, attribute, brandish, and coronation.

- Have students make a graphic organizer of the Long Man of Wilmington and the Cerne Abbas Giant. Have students include at least 3 facts for each. Encourage students to then do a Venn diagram comparing/contrasting the two drawings.
- During World War 2, what was done to the Long Man of Wilmington? Why? (painted green to protect the landmark from enemy aircraft)
- What is the dispute about the Cerne Abbas Giant?(whether it is indeed an ancient drawing)
- Draw one of the chalk figures.

Who Cleaned the Horse (pages 22- 23)

- Have students read and write a summary of the reading.

Ohio's Serpent Mound (pages 24- 27)

Possible Vocabulary Words: effigy, designated, and radiocarbon dating

* How are effigy mounds created?(using earth and stone formed into the shape of an animal or human)

- What did Frederic Ward Putnam do in 1887? (excavated the Serpent Mound to see if there was anything inside it)
- Skim the reading to find 4 facts about the Serpent Mound.(Possible answers: may have been built by the Adena people, charcoal found at base of the mound, built between 995AD to 1265,etc.)

Modern Earth Artists (pages 28- 30)

Possible Vocabulary Words: inspiration, palette, and fixtures

- Name three modern earth artists(Robert Smithson, Steve Tobin and Stanley Herd)
- What did Tobin do to honor a sycamore tree? Why?(bronzed the roots/ protected St. Paul's churchyard from falling debris on September 11, 2001)
- What did Tobin find in the country of Ghana which he cast and bronzed?(termite mounds)
- What is the goal of Andrew Rogers?(to create the world's largest land-art project in the world, 12 sculptures on six continents)
- With colored sand, have students create their own earth art. Another idea would be to use beans or lentils to create their own earth art.

Additional Activities:

An Earthy Scramble (page 13)

Have teams of students do the activity.

Concentration Game:

Give small groups of students index cards. Have them write 10 topics covered in the reading, placing the topic on a different index card. Have the students write a comment about the topic and place it on another card. Pass out the cards to another team to match up the topic with the fact. For example:

painted green during WW 2 to protect it from enemy aircraft/ Long Man of Wilmington.