

Image Credit: Randy Gachet, Steal from the Sky, 2009, wire, plaster, recycled tire

## Recycled Art Mobile

### OVERVIEW

This lesson will focus on Alabama's Native American people pulling inspiration from their culture and lore.

### STANDARDS

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How can we take a story and use recycled materials to design and create an art mobile?

#### STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students Will:

- Learn about Native American tribes from Alabama
- Read lore and myths from their cultures
- Work to recycle at home and school
- Design and create a mobile

#### STANDARDS: K-THIRD GRADE | VISUAL ARTS, ELA, AND SOCIAL STUDIES

Kindergarten | VISUAL ARTS 1, 3 | ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) 27 | SOCIAL STUDIES 6, 12

1st Grade | VISUAL ARTS 2, 3 | ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) 23 | SOCIAL STUDIES 6, 11

2nd Grade | VISUAL ARTS 3, 5 | ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) 23 | SOCIAL STUDIES 11

3rd Grade VISUAL ARTS 1, 2 | ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) 27, 29 | SOCIAL STUDIES 13

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### ART DISCUSSION

#### DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- What was used to create this work of art? Specifically, the birds? The cloud?
- This work of art is considered an installation. How is this work an installation?
- Have you ever seen potential in trash besides throwing it in the recycling bin?

#### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Randy Gachet earned a B.F.A., concentrating in sculpture, from Birmingham-Southern College in 1987. In 2002, Gachet joined the visual arts faculty at the Alabama School of Fine Arts. His work is consistently exhibited in galleries, non-profit spaces and museums throughout Alabama and the Southeastern region.

"As a child I formed a lasting fascination with Native American folklore and myths. Experiences like childhood field trips to the Moundville Archaeology Site and family excursions to places like Cherokee, NC and the western United States fostered this fascination and fed my imagination. I remember being particularly intrigued with the aspect of

animism and the world being alive with all sorts of nature spirits.

Through early interests in natural and cultural history my work also found direction from Appalachian folklore and traditions, imagery found in Appalachian folk music as well as Delta and Piedmont blues. Of course over time these things have branched out into an array of others influences and interests many which relate to environmental and ecological issues. But it was certainly these early interests that led me to my relationship with crows. My spirit animal if you will.

In the late 1990's I became compelled by the rubber tire remnants and other jettisoned material I became aware of accumulating along freeways and highways. The crow, a supreme scavenger, figures prominently in this environment where we harvest refuse. The crow's ability to transform decay into sustenance, provides a metaphor of renewal. Fashioned from the remnants of tire, the crow's foreboding form simultaneously reads as an amusing creature and menacing harbinger."

- Randy Gachet

## CURRICULUM CONTENT

### NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES IN ALABAMA

Three tribes have been listed below providing their history and an example of their lores or myths.

Cherokee Tribe: History

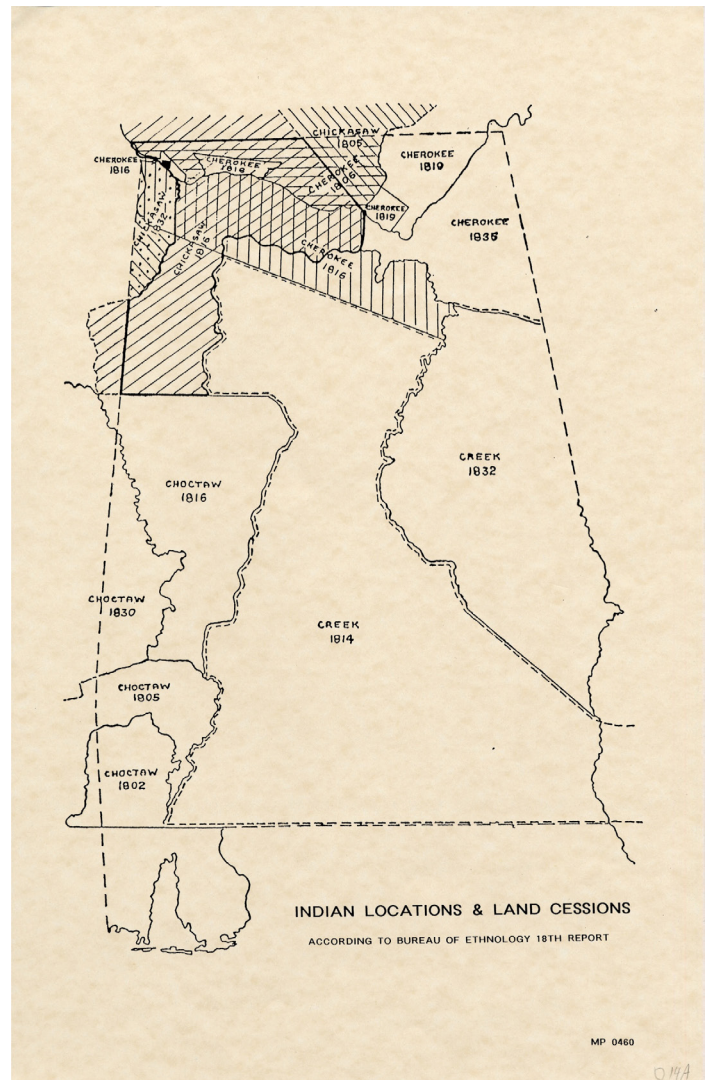
- Grandmother Spider Steals the Sun

Choctaw Tribe: History

- Why the Owls Stare

Creek Tribe: History

- How Day and Night were Divided.



# Recycled Art Mobile

## ART INSTRUCTION

### MATERIALS

Recycled materials (toilet rolls, milk or juice cartons, cans, bottles, etc.), string, paper scraps, popsicle sticks, markers or colored pencils

### INSTRUCTIONS

- 1** After reading a Native American fable, myth or lore have students pick one to create with. The project will allow them to focus on the characters and key moments within the narrative.
- 2** Prepare the materials for use. If using toilet rolls, simply cut down the middle to open up. Dampen each side of the roll with a rag or spray bottle then lay flat under a heavy surface. In a few short minutes the rolls will be dry enough to work on as a piece of paper!
- 3** Each piece should display a different character or moment found in the myth or lore. One side will have an illustration and the other will tell what is happening. Always start by drawing with a pencil.
- 4** Once the steps are drawn, begin coloring in the illustrations.

## TERMS

**INSTALLATION** - a work of art that usually consists of multiple components often in mixed media and that is exhibited in a usually large space in an arrangement specified by the artist

**MOBILE**- a structure suspended so that it moves in a current of air

**NATIVE AMERICAN** - a member of any of the indigenous peoples of the western hemisphere.

**LORE** -traditional knowledge or belief

**MYTH** - a popular belief or tradition that has grown up around something or someone

**RECYCLE** - to make ready for reuse

## YOUTUBE

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## RESOURCES

"Alabama History Education Materials." Alabama Department of Archives and History Digital Collections, digital.archives.alabama.gov/cdm/landingpage/collection/lessons.

"Alabama History Notebook." Alabama Archives and History. [http://www.archives.alabama.gov/teacher/Alabama\\_History\\_Notebook.pdf](http://www.archives.alabama.gov/teacher/Alabama_History_Notebook.pdf)

Abram, Susan M. "Cherokees in Alabama." Encyclopedia of Alabama, 8 Mar. 2007, [www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1087](http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1087).

Erdoes, Richard, and Alfonso Ortiz. "Grandmother Spider Steals the Sun." American Indian Myths and Legends, Pantheon Books, 2006, pp. 154–155.

Matte, Jacqueline Anderson. "MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians." Encyclopedia of Alabama, 10 Oct. 2007, [www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1368](http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1368).

"Native American Legends." First People, The Legends, [www.firstpeople.us/FP-HTML-Legends/WhyTheOwlsStare-Choctaw.html](http://www.firstpeople.us/FP-HTML-Legends/WhyTheOwlsStare-Choctaw.html).

Welker, Glenn. "How Day and Night Were Divided." How Day and Night Were Divided, 8 June 2004, [www.indigenouspeople.net/howday.htm](http://www.indigenouspeople.net/howday.htm).