Dynamic Earth Snapshot: Our Ever-Changing Planet

Essential Question: What evidence do we have that our Earth is ever-changing and adapting?

Abstract: Students observe and discuss three pieces from the Museum's Dynamic Earth gallery that represent scenes of our natural world. Throughout the program, students will explore how our Earth changes through investigating models of rock formations found in New Jersey and compare incredible adaptations of life using natural science specimens presented in real-world situations. Students are given the opportunity to sketch and identify important parts of the habitat that surrounds them and, as an extension activity, can make models of sedimentary and metamorphic rock.

Lesson Objective: Through this museum program, students will be able to…

- Analyze natural science images for scientific value
- Define the constructs of a biome
- Compare and contrast the diversity of biomes on Earth
- Model natural forces and changes that are a part of our dynamic Earth

Grade Level: 3rd – 12th Grade

Time Duration: 30 minutes

Location: online

Materials Needed:

- Paper
- Pencil/Colored pencils/Markers
- Activity dough (see recipe in pre and post lesson materials)

New Jersey Student Learning Standards: Hands-on, minds-on gallery workshops are designed to heighten observation and critical-thinking skills by focusing on aesthetics and critique. Presentations include cross-curricular activities that combine language arts and science literacy to develop skills in line with the NJ ASK and GEPA tests.

Dynamic Earth cultivates literary, artistic, analytic, critical thinking and collaborative skills for students as they:

- Create written responses to natural science objects found in The Newark Museum of Art collection
- Contribute to group discussions with peers and educators by listening to and posing different viewpoints
- Develop abstract thought and higher-order thinking that is stimulated by guided viewing of natural science objects

Dynamic Earth (Grades 3–12)
Common Core Standards

Science: 2-ESS1-1,C; 2-LS4-1,D; 3-LS4-3,C; 4-ESS1-1,C;

English Language Arts: W.3.4; W.4.4-5; W.5.2,4; W.6.4-5; W.7.2,4; W.8.2,4; SL.3.1A-D; SL.4A-D; SL.5.1,4; SL.6.1,4; SL.7.1,4,6; SL.8.1-4,6; SL.9-10.1-4,6; SL.11-12.1-4,6; L.3.1-2,6; L.4.1A-B; L.4.2A-D; L.4.6; L.5.1-3,6; L.6.1-3,5-6; L.7.1-3,6; L.8.1-6; WHST.6-8.2; WHST.6-8.4; WHST.9-10.2; WHST.9-10.4; WHST.11-12.2; WHST.11-12.4