

# A Trail To Every Classroom (TTEC) Curriculum Development Tool

UNIT DESIGN COVER SHEET

Author contact: **Kathryn Paulsen**

School name, state and town: **unspecified, New Paltz, NY**

Title: **Creating an A.T. Trailhead Display**

**Abstract/Vignette:** *Most schoolchildren are not aware of the existence of the Appalachian Trail. They know about global issues, but often can't identify life in their own backyard. A trailhead bulletin board display would create interest and awareness of the Trail and its wildlife. Experience with the Trail can lead to a greater appreciation for, and stewardship of, local natural resources.*

Grade level(s): Please check all that apply.

- K-2     3-5     6-8     9-12     College and Lifelong Learning

Discipline: Please check all that apply.

- Art and Music     Health and PE     Foreign Language
- Literature and Language Arts     Mathematics     Science
- Social Studies and Geography     History     Technology

Year Developed: **2006**

Period (month, week, year): **unspecified**

Teaching environment:

- In the Classroom (indoors)     Outdoors
- In the Community     Online/Virtual



*“Who can imagine my dear country’s dark woods,  
its great forests, its vast Atlantic bays,  
its thousands of streams, lakes, and magnificent rivers?  
I wish that I could draw it all!”*

- *John James Audubon*

A teaching unit for  
“A Trail To Every Classroom”  
Summer Institute, July 2006

Submitted by: Kathryn Paulsen, 79 Poppletown Road, New Paltz, NY 12561

## **Planning for Service Learning**

Grade Level: 6 Art

### **CONTENT – LEARNING ABOUT:**

The Appalachian Trail – Its history, its purpose, its value, its needs

Conservation – its beginnings, its significance

Nature as inspiration for Art – Audubon, Locker, Hudson River School

Drawing and Painting techniques

Flora and Fauna in our woodlands

Writing – creative and factual

Making a difference in our community

Musical heritage – Woody Guthrie’s “This Land Is Your Land”

### **SERVICE NEED:**

Many local residents are unaware that the Appalachian Trail passes through our community’s “backyard”. Most schoolchildren are not aware of the existence of the trail. They know about global issues, but often can’t identify life in their own backyard. A trailhead bulletin board display at Route 55 would create interest and awareness of the trail and its wildlife. Experience with the trail can lead to a greater appreciation for, and stewardship of, local natural resources. A trail guide or brochure would be a useful complement to the informational bulletin board.

### **SERVICE IDEA:**

Sixth grade art students will plan and create a display or bulletin board for the local Appalachian Trailhead. The theme of the display will be birds, butterflies, and plants that a hiker might observe along a nearby section of the trail. Artwork will be created by the students, accompanied by information or a poem about the wildlife. A possible follow-up activity would be to create a trail guide or brochure to complement the display. If necessary, students and adults will work together to design and build the structure.

## **PREPARATION:**

Contact Dutchess/Putnam County Appalachian Trail Management Committee, contact NY/NJ Trail Conference, contact local hiking clubs: Mid-Hudson Chapter Adirondack Mountain Club, Mid-Hudson Valley Group Sierra Club.

Look at works of John Audubon, Thomas Locker, and Hudson River School painters.

Read about history and philosophy of Conservation movement.

Read about and discuss Appalachian Trail. Look at 15' map of trail.

Listen and learn about Woody Guthrie: "This Land Is Your Land".

If necessary, obtain grant (available through ATC and NPS) for erecting display structure

## **ACTION:**

Draw and paint a bird, butterfly, or plant.

Research and write about chosen subject.

Hike local section of Appalachian Trail.

Measure bulletin board structure.

Plan design/layout for display.

Assemble and install display.

## **REFLECTION:**

Before installation, display all student artwork in school.

Students do oral or written reflection about their walk on the trail.

Send letter to parents describing project.

## **DEMONSTRATION:**

Invite parents, teachers, administrators, and representatives of ATC, NY/NJ TC, and/or local hiking clubs to see unveiling of completed display.

Students may assemble a booklet or trail guide, related to the display.

When completed, take photographs of trailhead display to be showcased in school.

Submit photographs to local newspaper(s) or magazine(s) for a possible feature.

## **YOUTH VOICE OR CHOICE:**

Students may write letters to contacts, consult with them regarding ideas for the display, meet with representatives of local hiking clubs, and/or choose to become further involved in stewardship.

## **CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS:**

*English / Language Arts:* Reading about the Appalachian Trail, Conservation, and artists  
Reading and writing about chosen animal or plant, a short poem or haiku. Letter writing.

*Social Studies/History:* Learn about Conservation movement, the Appalachian Trail.

*Natural Science:* Study birds, insects, and plants of the northeastern woodlands.

*Fine Art/Art History:* Drawing and painting techniques. Graphic design. Learn about Hudson River School of painting, Audubon, Thomas Locker.

*Other: Technology:* If necessary, designing and building a wooden display structure.

## **NOTES:**

This project may help protect the school's hiking group from impending budget cuts.

This project could also be used for Tymore, a local town park, which includes Fishkill Creek and a unique woodland gorge with hiking trails.

## **SKILL DEVELOPMENT:**

- Organization and planning
- Letter writing
- Creative writing
- Reading and research
- Art – drawing and painting, graphic design
- Art appreciation and critique
- Communication, interaction, teamwork

Objectives – *National Visual Arts Standards:*

NA-VA.5-8.1 Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes.

NA-VA.5-8.3 Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas.

NA-VA.5-8.5 Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others.

NA-VA.5-8.6 Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines.

## **BOOKS:**

Step By Step Along the Appalachian Trail / Tricia Andryszewski. Brookfield, Conn.: Twenty-First Century Books, 1998. An overview of the natural history of the Appalachian Trail and of historical events related to the route, an imaginary hike up the trail, and a description of what can be seen and experienced along the way.

*Audubon:*

The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon / by Jacqueline Davies; Illustrated by Melissa Sweet. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 2004. Picture book.

Capturing Nature: The Writings and Art of John James Audubon / edited by Peter and Connie Roop; illustrated by Rick Farley. New York: Walker, 1993

Into The Woods: John James Audubon Lives His Dream / Robert Burleigh; Illustrated by Wendell Minor. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2002

Birds of America. Selections / Introduction and Commentary by Roger Tory Peterson. New York: Crown, 1978

*Thomas Locker:*

The Man Who Paints Nature / by Thomas Locker. Katonah, New York: Owen, 1999  
Autobiographical.

Sky Tree: Seeing Science Through Art / Thomas Locker with Candace Christiansen. New York: Harper Collins, 1995

Catskill Eagle / Herman Melville, paintings by Thomas Locker. NY, Philomel, 1991

Washington Irving's Rip Van Winkle / adapted and with paintings by Thomas Locker. New York: Dial Books, 1988

In Blue Mountains: An Artist's Return to America's First Wilderness / Story and Paintings by Thomas Locker. Hudson, New York: Bell Pond Books, 2000.

*Hudson River School Painting:*

American Paradise: The World of the Hudson River School / Introduction by John Howatt. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, Abrams, 1987

The Hudson River and Its Painters / (VCR) by Lee Savage and Joan Holt. Produced by the Hudson Company. Concord, Massachusetts: Home Vision, 1987

*Conservation:*

Rachel Carson: Preserving a Sense of Wonder / Thomas Locker and Joseph Bruchac. Golden, Colorado: Fulcrum, 2004

Earthkeepers: Observers and Protectors of Nature / Ann T. Keene. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994

Great Lives: Nature and the Environment / Doris Faber and Harold Faber. New York: Scribner's Sons Books for Young Readers, 1991

## **COMMUNITY CONTACTS:**

Jim Haggett, Chairman, Dutchess/Putnam Counties Appalachian Trail Management Committee:

845-462-2893 (h)

[haggett@us.ibm.com](mailto:haggett@us.ibm.com)

Jane Daniels, President, New York/New Jersey Trail Conference

914-245-1250 (h)

[jdhiker@optonline.net](mailto:jdhiker@optonline.net)

Lalita Malik, Chair, Mid-Hudson Chapter Adirondack Mountain Club

845-592-0204

[lalitamalik@aol.com](mailto:lalitamalik@aol.com)

Bibi Sandstrom, Chair, Mid-Hudson Valley Group Sierra Club

845-255-5528

[bibis@juno.com](mailto:bibis@juno.com)

*“...As I was walking a ribbon of highway  
I saw above me an endless skyway  
I saw below me a golden valley  
This land was made for you and me...”*

*- Woodie Guthrie, 1945*