For Parents and Guardians

Welcome to the online version of The Great Circle Artist-in-Residence program, a unique collaboration between The Rockwell Museum and the Elmira City and Bath Central School Districts. The Rockwell Museum believes in reaching all audiences through authentic educational arts experiences – this interdisciplinary program integrates fundamental arts education with New York State Common Core content to create a well-rounded curriculum.

The goal of The Great Circle Artist-in-Residence program is to unify learning across all first grade curriculum content. Students build upon and synthesize concepts introduced in the Listening and Learning Domains, including folktales and legends, animals and habitats, geometry, astronomy, earth sciences, the human body, and the Lakota Sioux tribes of the Great Plains.

We learn best when we can link a new idea to something we already know. Linked learning reinforces what we already know and helps us remember the new material. The Great Circle Artist-in-Residence program links what your child has learned so far in first grade, what they are learning now, and topics they will learn soon.

You can help your child with reading, printing and how to use links. Click words in bold purple for a link to an icon that speaks the word.

District wide implementation for all first grade students in the Elmira City School District has been made possible in part with the support from The Anderson Foundation, Inc., Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes, Inc., M&T Bank and The Tripp Foundation.

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Something Round: Earth

Black Elk was a Lakota Indian. He did a lot of looking. He did a lot of thinking. He saw so many round things. He said, “The power of the world always works in circles, and everything tries to be round.” To Black Elk, everything living and growing on Earth is part of the Great Circle.

Here is a look at round things on Earth. This National Geographic video is called Circles of the World.

Earth, the planet we live on, is round. Earth has a round shape and round motion. It spins around and it travels around the sun in an orbit. An orbit is the path of a planet. Earth is a good planet for life. It has water to drink. It has trees and animals. It has light. It is not too hot for us to live and not too cold. Everything living and growing on Earth is part of the Great Circle. Plants, animals, birds, insects and people need each other to live.

For example:

A squirrel needs an oak tree for food. An oak tree makes acorns. Squirrels love to eat acorns. In the fall they put acorns in the ground. They plan to dig them up in the winter and eat them. Sometimes the squirrels forget. The forgotten acorns may grow into new oak trees far from the first tree. The oak tree needs the squirrel to make new trees. Oak trees stay in one place. Squirrels move for them and plant new trees. The squirrel and oak tree living together is part of the Great Circle. Everything living and growing on Earth is part of the circle of life.
Story
The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush by Tomie dePaola

Here is a story about a boy named Gopher who lived like Black Elk. Black Elk and Gopher both lived in teepees (tents made in the shape of a cone). Black Elk liked living in a round home. It made him think of the Great Circle. Like Black Elk, Gopher did a lot of looking and thinking. He loved to draw.

This is a picture of a cone.

Cones are round on the bottom and look like a triangle from the side.

Make Art

You can look, think and make art too!
Look out your window or go outside.
Look at living and growing things.
What do you see?
You might see clouds moving.
You might see flowers opening in the sun.
You might see birds flying. What is happening?
Draw the living, growing, and changing that you see.
Show someone your drawing.
You just drew the Great Circle! Everything living and growing on Earth is part of the circle of life.
**Museum Activity: Animal Homes**

We have homes. Animals need homes too. You will choose a home for each animal. Animals need food, clean water and shelter to live. A **shelter** is a place to be safe. Animals find shelter and they build shelter. The place an animal lives is a habitat.

The habitat near Elmira and Corning is a **forest habitat**.

1) Color the bird and squirrel. Cut them out.
2) Look below at the four works of art from The Rockwell Museum. Look carefully at each one.
3) Choose a work of art that gives each animal a good place to live.

Think:

- What do you think the animal will find to eat? Say it, write it or draw it.
- How do you know there is water? Can you see it? Can you see something that needs water to live?
- Where will the animal find or build shelter? Say it, write it or draw it.
Albert Bierstadt, *Nevada Fall, Yosemite*, 1880, oil on paper laid on canvas, 27 ½ x 20 in. Gift of Robert F. Rockwell Jr. 78.15 F

Barbara Latham, *In the Park*, 1937, woodblock print on paper, 8 x 10 in. Clara S. Peck Fund. 2017.9.3
John Fery, Milwaukee Looking Upon Lake Michigan, c. 1908, oil on canvas, 22 ¼ x 43 ¾ in. Purchase through funds from the Silver Dollar Society. 2016.7

Be the Circle

Every time you protect living and growing things on Earth, you are part of the Great Circle. It is easy to help birds. Many birds went south for the winter to warm places. Now, in the spring, they are flying back to their homes. Many birds fly at night. Looking at the stars helps them find the way home. But they can’t see the stars if there is too much light on Earth. You can help! At 8 p.m. (or sooner) look at the windows in your home and make sure the blinds or curtains are closed. That way the light in your home will not be too bright for birds to see.

*Thank you for being a Great Circle helper!*