Big Idea
Finding art, creativity and inspiration in our everyday surroundings

Your students will:
• Go on a scavenger hunt
• Make observations while looking creatively at their environment
• Understand and explore how artists find inspiration in the world around them

Explore Public Art with Freddie & Cal
As a class, co-view the clip from the episode “Public Art & the Flamingo Fiasco,” in which Freddie begins her art hunt and discovers art in everyday places. From murals to sticker art to mosaics and yarn bombing, art can be found all around. Prompt a discussion about how artists find creative inspiration in everyday places. Conversations starters might include:

1. What did you notice about the artworks featured in this episode? Which works of art were the most interesting or inspiring to you and why?

2. Freddie learns that art isn’t only in museums. It can also be found on the street and in communities. Can you think of some examples of public art in your neighborhood or at your school?

3. What do the artists in the episode say about why they choose to create art in public spaces? What about public art makes it so important?

4. How might having art in public spaces change the way we experience our environment?

Materials
• Printer
• Print-outs for each student of “The Anywhere Scavenger Hunt”
• Pencils
• Paper bags or baskets for gathering small things

No printer? No problem! Have students come up with their own lists and scavenger hunts. They can even trade hunts with their peers.
Lesson Activity

Teacher Prep:

1. Consider how you would like to structure the scavenger hunt within your classroom. A hunt can be an ideal partner or small group activity. It can also be a great opportunity for individual observation. Pick what works best for your students.

2. Think about where you would like your students to conduct the scavenger hunt. Can you use the class time to go outside? Can you challenge the students to try to find everything in your classroom? Maybe they can do the same scavenger hunt in different settings.

Instructions

1. Hand out and introduce the “Anywhere Scavenger Hunt” to your class. Just like Freddie is on a hunt for all things artful and creative, students can use the hunt to observe their everyday places and spaces in a new way.

2. Divide students into pairs or groups. Explain that the hunt is NOT a competition! The goal is not to finish first but to find inspiration and observe parts of our world that we often miss. Prepare them that they might not find every single thing in the hunt and that's okay—what can we discover?

3. Head to your hunt location, and send students on their way. They can use a pencil to check things off and sketch or jot down notes on the back of their paper. Encourage students to stop and notice interesting things that might not even be on their list and note them as well.

4. Come back together as a class and share your observations. Keep a list of what students found, and invite them to share their reflections on the activity. What parts of the hunt were tricky to find? How did looking and listening closely at their environment feel? Did they notice something new that they hadn't before?

Vocabulary

Observe: Watch, listen, take notice of and look closely at something for a longer time than usual

Inspiration: Getting new or creative ideas from something

Details: The small parts of the world we often overlook

Public art: Art that is on display in a community, city or neighborhood and is accessible to everyone for free
Tips and Extensions

- To extend the hunt, ask students to bring along a sketch book and capture their findings in writing or drawings.
- Invite students to come up with their own scavenger hunts. Think about all kinds of unique categories. How many different styles of doors can you find and record in your community? Can you hunt for things that represent different feelings or emotions? What about a color or shape hunt?
- Lots of street artists have names that they use to sign their art. Lindsay Bedford, featured in this episode, uses the name Truth on the Wind, while Nicole Nikolich uses Lace in the Moon. Have students come up with their own public art names and write them on their scavenger hunts.

School-to-Home Connection

- Have students try the scavenger hunt at home or around their neighborhood. How is what they find the same and different from their observations at school?
- Look for and document public art in your own community. From murals to graffiti to monuments, public art is everywhere. Just like Conrad Benner does on his StreetsDept blog, invite students to take photos or make sketches of the art they encounter in their neighborhoods.
- Invite students to create public art at home using sidewalk chalk. You can do this as a class as well. Can you draw big flower petals on the ground to step on like Lindsay Bedford did in this episode? How else can you add surprises and some color to your neighborhood sidewalks?
More about the StreetsDept, Conrad Benner, Lindsay Bedford and Nicole Nikolich

Conrad Benner started StreetsDept as a blog that documents all of the public art around Philadelphia. Lindsay Bedford (aka Truth on the Wind) is one of these public artists, who creates murals and installations like her rose petal procession on the ground that she worked on in this episode. Nicole Nikolich (aka Lace in the Moon) creates yarn bombs all over the Philadelphia area, often with the help of students. You can learn more about these artists’ work on their websites and of course on the streets of Philly!

More Classroom Activities
Visit PBS LearningMedia for more lesson plans like this inspired by The Infinite Art Hunt.

Children’s Books with Related Themes
Check out these children’s books online or at your local library to continue exploring the concepts in this episode.

How to be an Explorer of the World by Keri Smith
The ultimate anywhere scavenger hunt, this book includes ideas upon ideas of how to collect, notice, observe and scavenge the world around you in ways you’ve never considered.

Maybe Something Beautiful by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell
Based on a true story, a muralist is inspired by young Mira’s art that she hands out to her community and helps transforms a neighborhood through creativity.