

## Assemblage Art

*Combine Various Materials together to explore the concept of assemblage art.*

### Big Idea

Recycled materials can be used to create art.

### Standards

4.A Listens effectively in formal and informal situations.	26.A Understand processes, traditional tools and modern technologies used in the arts.
9.A Demonstrate and apply geometric concepts involving points, lines, planes and space.	31.A Develop a positive self-concept.
25A Understands the sensory elements, organizational principle and expressive qualities of the arts.	

### Materials

- Used cardboard boxes (lids are good too)
- Scissors
- Glue/tape
- Markers (for names and to decorate)
- Scraps of sanded wood (check with local lumber yards, hardware stores or parents)
- Metal scraps (make sure these are not sharp)
- Popsicle sticks
- Other recycled materials, like buttons, lids, fabric, etc.
- Photographs of Louise Nevelson work (search on internet)

### Inspirational Artwork & Resources

[Big Black by Louise Nevelson](#)

[An American Tribe to the British People by Louise Nevelson](#)

[The Art of Assemblage historical document by William Seitz](#)

### Vocabulary

**Assemblage:** a group of things gathered or collected; an assembly; collection

**Collage:** a technique of composing a work of art by pasting on a single surface various materials

**Negative space:** empty space, space around an object or form; also called white space

**Recycle:** to extract useful materials from garbage or waste

**Recyclable:** fit for or capable of being recycled

### Setup

Find a clean space to work, either a table or floor area and cover it with newspaper. One may want access to a sink to wash hands.

### Directions

1. Describe assemblage to children and other vocabulary definitions. Show images of Louise Nevelson art work. Louise Nevelson is known for creating beautiful, huge box sculptures. Her father owned a lumber yard when she was a child and she loved to collect and use scraps of wood to decorate boxes, she called them her "secret treasures". As an adult she continued to collect different items and began arranging them into very large structures- this is how she created her art.
2. Compare and discuss what kinds of items or shapes, negative space can be seen in her art work.
3. Have children choose a few items to start with and arrange them.
4. Glue or tape the items together.
5. Children can continue to place additional items until they are finished.
6. Allow children to share their Assemblage Art, take dictations or older children can write something about their sculpture.

### *Investigation Questions:*

*Q. Can you tell me about your assemblage?*

*Q. What is a recyclable?*

*A. A recyclable is something that can be reused to make artwork. For example, newspapers, bottles, cardboard boxes.*

*Q. What type of recyclables did you use in your artwork?*

*Q. Can you show me the negative spaces you have created in your box?*

*Q. What kinds of items do you like to collect?*